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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-89-046* *10 March 1989*

CONTENTS

**MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW**

10 March Middle East and South Asia Review ..... 1

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Inter-Arab Affairs**

Arab League Envoy on U.S.-PLO Dialogue *[KUNA]* ..... 3
5 States Discuss Power Grid Interconnection *[Amman JORDAN TIMES 5 Mar]* ..... 3

**Palestinian Affairs**

PLO Suspends Unofficial Contacts With U.S. *[Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... 4
Announces Meeting With U.S. *[Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... 4
Khalaf Denounces Jibril Threat to Rushdie *[AFP]* ..... 4
Strike Forces To Use Weapons in West Bank, Gaza *[Nicosia AL-NASR 10 Mar]* ..... 4
Strike Forces Appeal to Israeli Soldiers *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* ..... 4
Khalaf Asserts Armed Struggle 'Legitimate Right' *[INA]* ..... 5
Further on Khalaf Remarks *[Sanaa VOP]* ..... 6
Views European Stands *[Baghdad AL-THAWRAH 28 Feb]* ..... 6
Hawatimah Discusses Differences With PLO *[Beirut AL-SAFIR 8 Mar]* ..... 7
PLO's 'Abbas Letter to Hawatimah Published *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 2 Mar]* ..... 14

**ARAB AFRICA**

**Algeria**

Assembly Ratifies Arab Maghreb Union Treaty *[APS]* ..... 16
Mitterrand Arrives in Algiers for Talks *[Algiers Radio]* ..... 16
Confers With Bendjedid *[APS]* ..... 16
Ends Visit, Departs *[Paris Radio]* ..... 16
Communique Signed With Iranian Oil Minister *[Algiers Radio]* ..... 17

**Egypt**

'Abd al-Majid Assesses EEC Role, Rushdie Issue *[MENA]* ..... 17
Mubarak Makes Official Visit to Belgium *[cross-reference]* ..... 17
British Overseas Development Minister Visits *[MENA]* ..... 18
Meets With 'Abd al-Majid *[MENA]* ..... 18
Signs Mining Agreement *[MENA]* ..... 18
Concludes Visit, Departs *[MENA]* ..... 18
Coptic Party Founder Withdraws Formation Request *[AL-MUSAWWAR 3 Mar]* ..... 18

**Libya**

General People's Congress Names New Cabinet *[Tripoli TV]* ..... 18
Al-Mahdi Departs Banghazi After GPC Session *[JANA]* ..... 19
JANA Criticizes U.S. Official's Comments ..... 19

**Sudan**

MENA Reports Expectations of New Government ..... 20
Prime Minister Thanks U.S. for 'Support' *[SUNA]* ..... 20

Al-Mahdi Denies Armed Militia in Ummah Party *[SUNA]* ..... 21
'About 25,000' Refugees From Nimule Enter Uganda *[SUNA]* ..... 21
Foreign Ministry Informed *[MENA]* ..... 21
Committee To 'Tackle' Problem *[SUNA]* ..... 21
Rebels Request More Aid for Refugees *[Radio SPLA]* ..... 21
Army Spokesman Denies Weapons Shipment Received *[Omdurman Radio]* ..... 21
Expatriates in Qatar Send Aid to Military *[Khartoum Radio]* ..... 21
Government Fights Rebels in Wau, Malakal *[Khartoum Radio]* ..... 21
Rebels Send Warning to Government Soldiers *[Radio SPLA]* ..... 22

## ARABIAN PENINSULA

### Kuwait

Minister Speaks on Future of Expatriate Labor *[ARAB TIMES 8 Mar]* ..... 23
Expatriates Cite Hardships *[ARAB TIMES 8 Mar]* ..... 23

### Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister Comments on Iran, 'Uprising' *[SPA]* ..... 24
Recognition of Mujahidin Government Supported *[SPA]* ..... 24

### United Arab Emirates

Iranian Delegation Arrives for Talks 6 Mar *[IRNA]* ..... 24
Ayatollah on 'Satanic Verses' *[IRNA]* ..... 25
Iranian Amabassador Conveys Velayati Message *[WAKH]* ..... 25
Visiting Omani Minister Meets Economy Minister *[WAKH]* ..... 25
Meets Finance Minister *[WAKH]* ..... 25
Minister Returns From Riyadh GCC Meetings *[WAKH]* ..... 25

## IRAQ

Technical Talks on UN 598 End in New York *[INA]* ..... 26
INA Commentator Reacts to Larijani Statements ..... 26

## ISRAEL

Arens Leaves for U.S. for 'Meeting With Friends' *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 10 Mar]* ..... 27
Peres Urges Talks With Palestinians 'As They Are' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 10 Mar]* ..... 27
U.S. Fears Pressing PLO on Terror Issue *[HADASHOT 9 Mar]* ..... 27
Shamir Rejection of Report on Conflict Decried *[AL-SHA'B 9 Mar]* ..... 28
PLO Making Monthly Payments to Palestinians *[THE NATION 10 Mar]* ..... 28
Civil Administration Head Meets Palestinians *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ..... 29
Further on Meeting *['AL HAMISHMAR 10 Mar]* ..... 29
Arab Journalist on Meeting *[Jerusalem International]* ..... 29
Bayt Sahur's Ishaq on Meeting *[Jerusalem International]* ..... 30
Gaza Civil Administration Head Meets With Hamas *[Jerusalem TV]* ..... 30
Islamic Leader, Minister on Islamic Movement *[Jerusalem International]* ..... 31
Chamber of Commerce Set Up With Yugoslavia *[Jerusalem Radio]* ..... 31
New Rubber Bullets 'More Efficient and Dangerous' *[HADASHOT 10 Mar]* ..... 31
Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories ..... 32
2 Reported Killed, 3 Wounded *[Jerusalem Radio]* ..... 32
12 Wounded in Further Unrest *[Jerusalem Radio]* ..... 32
Gaza Strike Almost Total *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ..... 32
Rooms in Homes Destroyed *[Jerusalem Radio]* ..... 32
Reservist Jailed *[Jerusalem Radio]* ..... 32

## JORDAN

King Husayn Leaves for The Hague Conference *[Amman Radio]* ..... 33
King Husayn Sends Congratulations to Al-Asad *[Amman TV]* ..... 33
UK's Waldegrave on Territories' Occupation *[AL-DUSTUR 10 Mar]* ..... 33
Al-Rifa'i Confers With PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas *[Amman Radio]* ..... 33
'Abbas Ends Visit, Departs *[Amman Radio]* ..... 33
Foreign Minister Interviewed on Peace Prospects *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 4 Mar]* ..... 34

## LEBANON

'Awn Says Syria 'Stalling' Efforts for Solution *[VOL]* ..... 35
Cabinet Issues Statement, Views Port Closure *[VOL]* ..... 35
Soviet Sources Expect Escalation in South *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 5 Mar]* ..... 35
Reportage on Tension Between Army, PSP Forces ..... 36
Army Posts in Mountains Attacked *[RFL]* ..... 36
'Awn Clique Causes 'Tension' *[VOM]* ..... 36
VOM on Army Attacks in Mountains ..... 36
'Tension' Remains High *[RFL]* ..... 36
Army Command Issues Statement *[RFL]* ..... 36
PSP Withdraws Official From Security Committee *[VOM]* ..... 36
PSP Gunmen, Divers Active Off W. Beirut Coast *[VOL]* ..... 37
Resistance Fighters Attack Lahd on Border Strip *[Voice of National Resistance]* ..... 37
Ba'th Party Claims Attack Against SLA *[AFP]* ..... 37
Resistance Attacks SLA, Lahd Targets *[Voice of National Resistance]* ..... 37
Amal Group Attacks Joint Israeli, Lahd Position *[Beirut Radio]* ..... 37
Group Claims Attack on Syrian Post in Tripoli *[VOL]* ..... 37
Syrian Patrol Clashes With Landlord in Tripoli *[RFL]* ..... 38
Syrians Surround Home in Tripoli *[RFL]* ..... 38
Israeli Aircraft Reconnoiter Mountain Areas *[VOL]* ..... 38
Israelis Reinforce Positions in South *[Beirut Radio]* ..... 38

## SYRIA

Al-Asad, Khaddam Receive Lebanon's Al-Huss *[Damascus Radio]* ..... 39
Foreign Minister Confers With Iran's Khalkhali *[IRNA]* ..... 39
Kuwaiti Minister Makes Statement, Departs *[Damascus TV]* ..... 39
Al-Shar' Receives Kuwaiti Ambassador, Message *[Damascus Radio]* ..... 39
Information Minister Meets U.S. Publishers *[Damascus Radio]* ..... 39

## SOUTH ASIA

### Afghanistan

Military Situation, Casualties Updated ..... 40
'Hundreds' Killed in Nangarhar *[Kabul Radio]* ..... 40
Jalalabad Attack 'Repulsed' *[AFP]* ..... 40
27 Rebels Killed in Qandahar *[Kabul Radio]* ..... 40
Armed Forces High Command Statement 9 Mar *[Kabul Radio]* ..... 40
BAHKTAR Reports 'Announcement' ..... 41
Pakistani Envoy Summoned; 'Aggression' Protested *[Kabul Radio]* ..... 42
Protest Notes 286-289 Submitted to UNGOMAP *[BAKHTAR]* ..... 42
Khalili Denies Interim Government Representation *[IRNA]* ..... 43
Convoys Carrying Food, Fuel Arrive in Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* ..... 43
Wakil Appeals to UNESCO, UNICEF for Aid *[BAKHTAR]* ..... 43

### India

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives on 2-Day Visit *[Delhi Radio]* ..... 43
Meets Gandhi, Venkataraman *[Delhi TV]* ..... 43
Further on Meetings *[Delhi Radio]* ..... 44

Talks Said 'Fruitful' *[Delhi Radio]* ..... 44
Planned U.S. Sale of F-16's to Pakistan Protested *[Delhi Radio]* ..... 44
Supreme Court Objects To Holding Bhopal Payments *[Delhi Radio]* ..... 44
Bilateral Cooperation Protocol Signed With USSR *[Delhi Radio]* ..... 45
Talks With Pakistan on Siachen Issue Planned *[Delhi TV]* ..... 45
Bhutto's Move To Gain Control of Army Noted *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 28 Feb]* ..... 45
Week-Long General Strike in Assam Ends 9 Mar *[AFP]* ..... 46
Punjab Government Moving To Restore Normalcy *[Delhi Radio]* ..... 46
Autonomous Body for Defense Exports Examined *[Delhi Radio]* ..... 46

**Iran**

Rafsanjani Discusses Rushdie in Friday Prayers *[IRNA]* ..... 46
Commentaries View Severing Ties With UK ..... 47
UK 'Propaganda' Cited *[Tehran Radio]* ..... 47
Britain 'Will Be the Loser' *[Tehran International]* ..... 48
British 'Concern' Noted *[Tehran Radio]* ..... 49
'Significant Arms Dealings' With Moscow Reported *[TEHRAN TIMES 26 Feb]* ..... 49
Larijani, Asgharzadeh Speak on Foreign Policy *[Tehran RESALAT 1 Mar]* ..... 50
'Snail-Paced Progress' in Peace Talks Examined *[TEHRAN TIMES 4 Mar]* ..... 51
Threat of Civil War in Afghanistan Increasing *[Tehran TV]* ..... 52
Tehran TV on Khamene'i Trips to SFRY, Romania ..... 52
Burkina Faso Minister Pays Visit to Iran ..... 53
Meets With Khamene'i *[IRNA]* ..... 53
Comments on Visit *[Tehran Radio]* ..... 53
Communique Issued on Visit *[Tehran Radio]* ..... 54
Khamene'i Speaks on IRGC Anniversary *[Tehran Radio]* ..... 54
IRGC Minister Receives Foreign Ambassadors *[Tehran Radio]* ..... 55
Consultative Assembly Discusses Draft Budget *[Tehran TV]* ..... 55
Majlis Approves Budget *[IRNA]* ..... 55
50,000 Required To Pay Tax for Reconstruction *[Tehran TV]* ..... 56
Musavi on Cooperatives Role in Reconstruction *[Tehran Radio]* ..... 56

**Pakistan**

Further Reportage on 'Arafat's Visit ..... 56
'Arafat Meets Bhutto *[Islamabad Radio]* ..... 56
Meets Mujahidin Leaders *[Islamabad Radio]* ..... 57
Unified Approach to Afghan Problem Urged *[DAWN 26 Feb]* ..... 57

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[Editorial Report]

### PLO Affairs

U.S. and PLO officials are to meet in Tunis 15 March to continue the "dialogue" between the two sides, AFP reported.

Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, disclosed that the PLO is trying to convene an Arab summit meeting to show solidarity with the Palestinian people and the intifadah (uprising), Algiers Voice of Palestine radio reported citing a press statement. 'Abbas underscored the importance of international detente for solving the Palestinian issue and other regional conflicts, the radio added.

The Jerusalem-based PALESTINE PRESS SERVICE, closed by Israel at the start of the intifadah, has resumed its work in Athens, Abu Dhabi's AL-ITTIHAD newspaper reported.

### Israel

Civil unrest in "Judaea and Samaria" and the Gaza Strip 9 March left 2 people dead and 12 injured, Jerusalem radio reported. One of the dead was electrocuted after being forced to climb an electricity pylon to remove a PLO flag, and the other was shot when he attacked a soldier with a broken bottle.

Border police units are replacing IDF troops at military posts in the Gaza Strip including the Jabalyah refugee camp and Gaza city, Tel Aviv's IDF Radio reported. The transfer of duties is reportedly aimed at "easing tension" and returning calm to the area. The curfew imposed on Jabalyah refugee camp has been extended to the al-Shati' camp for "army operational reasons," the radio added.

### Lebanon

The Lebanese Army's coast guard intercepted a ship "cruising illegally" in Lebanese territorial waters 9 March and ordered it into Beirut port, according to an Army Command statement cited by Radio Free Lebanon. Meanwhile, Interior Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi warned of the possible "escalation" of tension in the country as a result of the coastal "blockade" imposed by General Michel 'Awn, the clandestine Voice of the People radio reported. He asserted that General 'Awn's measures concerning the ports "fall far short of wisdom and prudence" and could result in bombardment of the Port of Beirut.

In another development, General 'Awn accused Syria of "stalling Arab efforts" to end Lebanon's crisis, and pledged to "use force if necessary" to impose order and state authority in the country, the Voice of Lebanon radio reported. 'Awn also accused Syria of "undermining the Army's unity" by setting up a force under General al-Khatib.

The Progressive Socialist Party has withdrawn its representative to the Security Committee "in view of the military and security escalation" by the "Al-Yarzah army cliques" and the "aggression" in the mountain region, according to a source cited by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio.

In southern Lebanon, "resistance fighters" attacked positions held by "agent Lahd's militia" in 'Alman, detonated a landmine under a militia vehicle in the western sector, and fired a Katyusha rocket at a militia position in Jabal Safi, according to the Voice of National Resistance radio. The Lebanese National Resistance Battalions-Amal killed three "agent forces" in a rocket and machinegun attack on Al-Qantarah 9 March, according to Beirut radio citing a statement issued by the group.

In northern Lebanon, a Syrian intelligence patrol suffered casualties during a clash in Tripoli, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Meanwhile, the "16 January Movement for the Liberation of Tripoli" claimed responsibility for an attack on a Syrian military post in the city 9 March during which several Syrian troops were killed or wounded, according to the Voice of Lebanon radio.

### Afghanistan

**Military Developments**—The Pakistani "militarists" have intensified their "direct intervention and aggression" in Nangarhar Province, according to a statement from the Armed Forces High Command broadcast by Kabul radio. The "extremists" had intended to "announce" their government in Jalalabad 9 March but the Armed Forces "inflicted powerful blows" on the opposition, who lost 1,500 men, the statement noted. Jalalabad airport is again operational after being damaged in the intitial attack and the major military posts are in government hands, AFP reported. A spokesman told foreign journalists that fighting is continuing in the city.

The mujahidin fired rockets at Kabul airport 8 March killing four people and damaging buildings and facilities, according to a TASS report.

**Food Supplies**—A convoy of 123 trucks carrying food and basic commodities arrived in Kabul from the Soviet border 8 and 9 March, Kabul radio reported.

### Libya

The General People's Congress meeting in Banghazi elected new secretaries of general people's committees 9 March, Tripoli radio reported. The new cabinet includes

Fatimah 'Abd al-Hafiz Mukhtar as secretary for education and Amin Hilmi 'Uthman Kamil, formerly Egypt's minister of industry at the time of President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, as secretary for light industries.

### Iran

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Shaykh Abdollah Nuri as his representative in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), Tehran radio reported. Nuri's duties are to include responsibility for all cultural, ideological, political, publicity, security, and intelligence issues in the Armed Forces, in state departments, and in the IRGC. In addition, Nuri is to approve the appointment and dismissal of IRGC commanders.

### Sudan

A convoy of 230 trucks loaded with food and accompanied by the Armed Forces has arrived in Wau to relieve the town's food crisis, Khartoum National Unity Radio reported 9 March. The radio added that military units have arrived in Malakal to "restore security" in the area.

## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Arab League Envoy on U.S.-PLO Dialogue

*LD0403173489 Kuwait KUNA in English 1532 GMT 4 Mar 89*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 4 (KUNA)—A senior Arab diplomat Saturday called on Washington to reopen the PLO office there and asked the Arab world to work for progressing the U.S.-PLO dialogue.

Arab League representative at the U.N. Clovis Maksud, in an interview with KUNA here, wondered how can the U.S. open a dialogue with the PLO through its Tunis embassy and keep the organization's information office in Washington closed.

Maksud said that the U.S. Administration should further clarify emphatically that the Palestinian uprising will continue as long as Israel's occupation of the occupied Arab lands and its atrocious practices to quell it persist.

Washington should also admit the legitimacy of resistance in South Lebanon as long as Israel maintains its hold of the so-called security zone in southern Lebanon, he elaborated.

No Arab country accepts Israel's outrageous description of the uprising and the resistance as terrorism, Maksud emphasized.

The Arab League official, who stopped here en route to Australia to deliver lectures there, warned against converting the PLO-dialogue into intermittent contacts.

Maksud said that the Arab League and Arab ambassadors in Washington are exerting efforts to avoid making Israel benefit from the dialogue by channeling its demands and threats through the U.S. to the Palestinians.

The Arab official, calling on the U.S. to work for implementing the Security Council Resolutions 425, 508 and 509 on Lebanon which it shared in drafting, said that crises are complicated in Lebanon as a result of the Israeli presence there and welcomed in this respect deployment of Lebanese Army troops in the south as a step to defend it.

Maksud, who has spent so far ten years in his office, said that the uprising has led to changes in the American public opinion more than in the American Administration.

He charged Israel of launching deceptive initiatives to divert the attention from the real settlement to the Palestinian problem.

Maksud advocated an Arab summit to decide on several pending questions and ascertain Arab calls for peace based on international legitimacy.

### 5 States Discuss Power Grid Interconnection

*JN0503085289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Mar 89 p 3*

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Jordan and four Middle Eastern countries opened a three-day meeting in Amman Saturday to discuss a power grid interconnection in the region and promote cooperation among themselves in energy-related fields.

The meeting, held at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) offices, are being attended by representatives from Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Turkey, whose countries last January reached tentative agreement in Ankara on launching the scheme.

The Islamic Development Bank and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development are also represented at the meeting to discuss prospects of financing the project.

The delegates are discussing technical aspects of the interconnection scheme among their countries in a bid to agree on a programme for implementation which will be preceeded first by a feasibility study, according to a JEA statement.

The meeting of experts was opened by Hisham al-Khatib, minister of energy and mineral resources, who said Jordan attaches importance to this project and the deliberations which would pave the way for coordination and close cooperation among the five countries.

Jordan and Syria have been cooperating in power supply matters over the past 10 years and Jordan and Egypt are now heading towards linking their national grids, a project which is expected to take three years to complete, Al-Khatib noted.

He said that Jordan and Iraq are also studying the prospect of linking their grids and the way is open for linking the three countries with other states in the region, Al-Khatib added.

The Turkish and Iraqi grids are already linked and Iraq is currently supplying parts of Turkey with electric power.

Energy officials and specialists from Jordan, Egypt, and an international consultancy firm, have completed a feasibility study on a project for linking the national grids of Egypt and Jordan, and a full report was submitted to the joint Jordanian Egyptian Higher Committee in Cairo recently.

The $170 million project will take four years to implement, according to JEA officials.

Following the Ankara meeting it was announced that the five countries were also contemplating the idea of linking their grids at a later stage with that of Europe through Turkey.

The technical committee in Amman is the first of its kind and was decided on by the ministers of energy in the five countries during their meeting in Ankara.

JEA Director Muhammad Sa'id 'Arafat represents Jordan at the meeting.

## Palestinian Affairs

### PLO Suspends Unofficial Contacts With U.S.

*JN0903133589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] The PLO has decided to suspend unofficial contacts with the United States, pending the resumption of bilateral official talks.

Announcing this in Tunis, an official Palestinian source said that the decision has been conveyed to the United States via Sweden and that the Tunis meetings between the PLO representative and the U.S. ambassador are the ones meant by unofficial contacts.

### Announces Meeting With U.S.

*JN0903151989 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Hakam Bal'awi, the PLO's representative in Tunis, has stated that a new PLO-U.S. meeting will be held in Tunis on 15 March. Earlier today, the PLO announced in Tunis that it has decided to suspend its unofficial contacts with the U.S. Administration and that this decision was communicated to Washington by the Swedish authorities.

### Khalaf Denounces Jibril Threat to Rushdie

*NC1003124089 Paris AFP in English 1230 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] Tunis, March 10 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Friday denounced a vow by a pro-Syrian Palestinian group to kill author Salman Rushdie, saying such declarations gave Islam a distorted image.

In a statement to the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, PLO second-in-command Abu Iyad accused Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), of trying to "exploit discontent created within the Moslem community" to justify terrorism.

"We are opposed to Jibril or anyone else using the name of Islam for terrorist ends. Death threats give Moslems a bad image and lead people to side with Salman Rushdie," Mr. Abu Iyad, whose real name is Salah Khalaf, said.

However, he added that Mr. Rushdie's controversial book, "The Satanic Verses," was blasphemous and should be condemned.

On February 14, Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, ordered the Indian-born, British author to be put to death for writing the novel.

Mr. Jibril, whose organisation is based in the Syrian capital of Damascus and is independent of the PLO, recently said the PFLP-GC would do everything it could to "carry out the sentence against Rushdie, wherever he is."

### Strike Forces To Use Weapons in West Bank, Gaza

*NC1003094089 Nicosia AL-NASR in Arabic 10 Mar 89 p 1*

[Text] AL-NASR has learned from reliable Palestinian sources that the Palestinian strike forces, which are under the command of the Palestinian Popular Army, have completed preparations to begin using weapons against the occupation forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This move was decided on after the Israeli army stepped up its oppressive operations against Palestinian citizens and increased its use of live ammunition against them, as a result of which there has been a considerable rise in the number of martyrs and injured during the past 3 months.

The Palestinian decision to use weapons in legitimate self-defense comes in the wake of the occupation authorities' decision to escalate their military operations against the Palestinians in the occupied areas.

The strike forces will concentrate on military centers so that they may, as far as possible, avoid inflicting casualties on civilians and civilian centers.

The reliable sources expect that the strike forces will begin the use of weapons within the next 2 months; namely, when all preparations have been made for the new escalatory measure. This measure will assert the continuation of the intifadah [uprising] until its objective—the establishment of a national independent Palestinian state—is achieved.

### Strike Forces Appeal to Israeli Soldiers

*JN0903212489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1753 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Appeal addressed to the Israeli army soldiers in the occupied Palestinian territories by the "strike forces of the state of Palestine"—date and place not given]

[Text] To you, O soldier, who is patrolling the streets of our cities, villages, and camps of refugees who were expelled from their homes. You, soldier, who is pursuing our sons, shedding their blood, breaking their limbs, and bringing pain and grief to every home. You, soldier, look at yourself and the heavy hardware you are carrying on your back—weapons, ammunition, bombs, and clubs.

Despite all these weapons, you are afraid of a stone thrown at you by a child or a youth. O soldier, why are you undergoing all this suffering and why should you accept this difficult life? Why are you not at this time at a calm, secure, and beautiful beach? Why are you not at this moment at a beautiful restaurant with the members of your family or your friends? Why is this beautiful life enjoyed only by those who sent you to a bloody whirlpool and pain and to a life replete with weariness and insecurity? O soldier, why are you dragged behind the lust of commanders who are thirsty for fame and revenge? Why are you lured by those commanders who create wars at a time when you and we are the ones who pay the price in the form of blood and suffering, while they reap money, position, and power?

O soldier, the weapon in your hand does not frighten us or prevent us from demanding our rights just like any other people. We will not yield to the enslavement, exploitation, and extortion exercised by the occupiers. O soldier, we do not wish to harm you. Likewise, we do not want you to harm us. Do not open fire on us and do not beat us, because we do not intend to kill you. O soldier, return to your family and think about your life and future. O soldier, do not help the commanders [words indistinct] and boost peace for you and for us.

Since the beginning of the Israeli occupation of our land, the ruling Israeli military authorities have been continuing their occupation and repression of our Palestinian people, perpetrating all sorts of crimes like murder, torture, deportation, vandalism of civilian property, and detention of thousands of our people in the new Nazi detention camps. The occupation authorities were not satisfied with this; they attacked our innocent people, as was the case in the Ansar 3 and Megiddo prisons.

We appeal to you and to the peace-loving people and ask what you expect from us. We have previously extended a hand of peace to you. Here is our leader Yasir 'Arafat daily expressing in every international forum our people's desire for a just and comprehensive peace that guarantees our right to live in freedom and security like the rest of the world. Despite all this, it seems that your leaders are thirsty for Palestinian blood. They want to amputate the clean hand that is stretched out for peace. They want to silence the voice of justice and deny our people's national and legitimate rights. They are continuing their killing of our Palestinian Arab people. As you know, our Palestinian people have sacred values and principles. They object to terrorism and extremism, but they are not ready to remain silent over the attacks to which they are exposed and over the denial of their rights.

Our people will continue to pursue all the legitimate methods approved by the UN Charter, particularly armed struggle, for the sake of regaining our rights and confronting the Zionist terrorism against our people. The terrorism being practiced by your army and the unrestrained settlers against our people's sons will not pass without proper confrontation. We can choose the appropriate reply and you will then know that the bullet you fire will backfire into your chests. We invite you to stand together, take to the streets, and stand in the face of the new killers. Let us work together to protect our and your children from the Israeli extremism that will bring tragedies and destruction tomorrow if not today.

O Israeli masses, move to stop the wheel of extremism. You can do so by pressuring your leaders into recognizing our full legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination, and recognizing the PLO, our sole legitimate representative. We will then bravely proceed toward an international conference that enjoys full powers in order to establish peace in the land of peace and put an end to pain, suffering, and bloodshed.

Long live the forces of peace and justice, long live the struggle of our Palestinian people. Revolution until victory.

Signed: The strike forces, the State of Palestine.

## Khalaf Asserts Armed Struggle 'Legitimate Right'

*JN1003101089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] Tunis, 10 Mar (INA)—Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf has asserted that the PLO has not pledged to stop operations against the Zionist entity because armed struggle is a legitimate right.

Addressing a rally held by the general secretariat of the Palestinian Woman's General Federation to mark International Woman's Day, he said armed struggle is one of the PLO's means, which it will maintain because the PLO has believed in this and the people's intifadah [uprising] and in its continuation until it achieves its objectives and until the Palestinian people establish an independent state on their own land. He explained that the United States is awaiting Shamir's visit to announce its view on the PLO proposals. However, everyone should understand that we have our decisions in Algiers and that our slogan is the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. We will never deviate from this, he added.

Salah Khalaf said: The Zionist enemy rejects everything, wagers on time, and tries to terminate the intifadah with new means, including what happened in Nabulus recently. The enemy also tries to hold elections in the occupied territories, a measure meant to address the Western world on the pretext of democracy, Khalaf added. He stressed the need for Zionist withdrawal from the occupied territories and for allowing the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories to hold both elections and a referendum on the PLO under UN auspices. This entity will then see who will win, he added. Khalaf asserted that the Zionist enemy will try to

find another way out of its crisis in the face of the PLO by launching a war in southern Lebanon to strike at the Palestinian revolution and drag the region into a new war and new situation.

### Further on Khalaf Remarks

*JN0903173989 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, has called for convening an Arab summit conference on the Palestine question in view of the current developments witnessed by the Arab and international arenas.

In a press interview published today in Riyadh, brother Abu Iyad asserted that the PLO strategy is based on the desire to achieve peace and that the Palestinian people seek to establish their independent state. He added that the PLO did not pledge to stop armed struggle and denied that there is any proposal regarding amending the Palestinian National Charter.

### Views European Stands

*JN0403091189 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 Feb 89 p 2*

[Interview with Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Iyad, by AL-THAWRAH correspondent in Tunis 'Abd al-Jabbar al-Sharif—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sharif] Let us begin the interview with the videocassette.

Abu Iyad: A symposium was held in Jerusalem. We can consider this symposium a rehearsal for the international conference. Many French, British, and Israeli personalities attended the symposium. But, the personalities who were invited to the occupied territory came to attend the symposium on the condition that the PLO should also attend, even through an audio or video recording. I sent the cassette a few days before the convening of the symposium.

I reiterated in the cassette our desire to achieve a genuine peace and secure coexistence. I also reiterated that if Israel continues to reject our peace proposals its future will then be dark.

We, the Palestinians, accept coexistence between the two states. The objections and fears can be presented at the international conference. And Israel rejects this international conference. We do not object to preparatory meetings, but we do object to preparatory negotiations.

[Al-Sharif] A Zionist soldier was kidnapped and another was stabbed at roadblocks. Do these roadblocks represent a qualitative change in the intifadah [uprising], or are they temporary?

Abu Iyad: The intifadah uses massive violence—stones and Molotov cocktails. Firearms are not used, so that the enemy will not exploit the situation. However, the escalating Israeli injustice and repression against our people has prompted them to resort to such individual methods.

[Al-Sharif] In one of Shamir's visits to the West Bank, the settlers insulted him and charged him with giving the West Bank to the Palestinians. And the leader of the right-wing Tehiya Party threatened to form a state on the West Bank separate from Israel. Is this not considered extremism within extremism?

Abu Iyad: Since the recent Israeli elections, it has become clear that the extremists are isolated. Among the 120 deputies, 18 represent the religious parties. These ideas are not new; they are the ideas of people who reject the Palestinian presence and the Palestinian state. This expresses the nature of Israeli poison.

The proclamation of a state on the West Bank is impractical. Had it not been for army protection, these settlements would have vanished. The objective of these statements and threats is extortion, nothing more or less. And the majority of those settlers come from the United States.

[Al-Sharif] Do you believe that the gap in the Zionist entity between those who support land in exchange for peace and the extremists will kill peace?

Abu Iyad: The resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council and the signals we are sending to Israel are not getting a response on the same frequency. Extremism is the nature of the fascist societies that continue to reject until the last moment, when a fait accompli is imposed on them. The cries of rejection inside Israel do not represent what Israel is looking for. They are cries of fear more than of rejection. They have built their theories on the destruction of the Palestinian ghost. But, this ghost is returning once again through the intifadah, through the PLO, and through resolutions based on the spirit of peace.

They said in the past that we, the Palestinians, reject coexistence. However, the new Palestinian call for peace has exhausted and painfully hit Zionism, making it scream and scream.

[Al-Sharif] But this cry represents 18 percent [as published] of the Israeli voices in the elections. This percentage can do many things, as it is not secondary. It has a political and social weight and can affect the present and future situation.

Abu Iyad: The effects remain within the framwork of words and talk, not action. They are cowards and cannot do anything outside the framework of the State of Israel and the Israeli army. However, their extremism will affect the extremism of others. They belong to the same

school as the Likud. Therefore, I do not believe that our call for peace will be heard in Israel in the near future. Otherwise, other wars may be waged, the extent of which we will never know.

[Al-Sharif] How do you assess the Shevardnadze-Arens meeting in Cairo, and how do you view the Soviet stand on the Middle East?

Abu Iyad: The USSR announced before the Cairo meeting that there will be no restoration of relations with Israel before the international conference.

[Al-Sharif] But the position of the USSR might prompt it to adopt a different view?

Abu Iyad: Since Gorbachev assumed power, the USSR has begun to show concern for its interests. However, I do not believe that this will make it disregard the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

[Al-Sharif] While in Tunis, General Michel 'Awn announced that the departure of all foreign forces from Lebanon is a basic condition to resolve the Lebanese crisis. And he considers the armed Palestinian presence foreign since the abrogation of the Shtawra and Cairo treaties. How do you view the Palestinian presence in Lebanon?

Abu Iyad: The Lebanese crisis is very complicated. We have announced more than once that if a rule comes in Lebanon to remove the ghost of partition we will be ready to make sacrifices. There will be no need for us to keep weapons in the camps if a Lebanese Government pledges to protect the Palestinian presence. I will have no fears about this presence.

[Al-Sharif] The Palestinian state was able to progress many steps in Europe. How do you assess the stand of the European countries?

Abu Iyad: The European stand did not advance to the level of the Palestine National Council resolutions. French President Francois Mitterrand said he will receive 'Arafat at the Elysee if he recognizes Resolution No 242. The PLO recognized this resolution, and he has neither received 'Arafat nor taken any steps. I hold France responsibile, so that it will be faithful in its dealings to its principles and political morals. Neither the FRG nor Belgium has made any move, despite the fact that the leader of the Jewish community in Belgium made positive statements. There are rigid European stands. Some Europeans' excuse is that if they adopt a supportive stand they will not be able to deal with Israel then.

The Europeans are delaying the adoption of stands until Israel is convinced and a dialogue is opened with it. This is good if it comes at the beginning of the stage. But, this stand must not be prolonged. I told some European ambassadors that this is the most appropriate situation for Israel. You listen to us and to them. Your role will remain that of a cultural committee. You will not have a stand because the stand requires a role.

The British stand made progress but did not move to a position that will give it a historic place. The Balfour Declaration is one of the causes of our people's misery. The European stand is immoral and not compatible with their claims about human rights and other issues.

[Al-Sharif] America recognized the PLO when it agreed to hold dialogue with it. What is your assessment of this dialogue, which might take a long time?

Abu Iyad: The mere decision to open dialogue has abolished Kissinger's 1974 adventure, which he tried to use to remove the PLO. We do not give the dialogue more importance than it deserves. The veto is a joke. The U.S. State Department's report included scores more things than the UN Security Council mentioned. The U.S. report refers to the repression and barbarism of the Zionist forces, while the veto rejects the word "regret." We are prepared to wait. However, the statements by Baker and Bush will push the cause back 20 years. This goes beyond Israeli blackmail. It is as if the dialogue had been opened as a channel through which to strike at us.

## Hawatimah Discusses Differences With PLO

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[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by Muna Sukkariyah in Damascus on 4 March]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Sukkariyah] At the outset, I will ask a question that may not be to your liking. It deals with the military operation you carried out last week. Some have interpreted this operation as designed to draw the United States' attention and to tell it "we are here." Was your operation in line with the principle of armed struggle that you have chosen since your front's inception?

[Hawatimah] For 20 years, armed struggle has been a major form of struggle for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], a form of struggle supported by all other forms of political, popular, and diplomatic struggle. The DFLP armed forces' heroic operations, which have never ceased throughout the various stages in the life of the Palestinian revolution, and its national and pan-Arab issues, fall within this framework.

The Al-Quds al-Sharif [Holy Jerusalem] operation was staged on 22 February to coincide with celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the DFLP armed struggle's birth. Then came the operation that was staged yesterday (3 March 1989). The timing of both operations

was completely linked to the DFLP's 20th anniversary. In line with our course of struggle, our military operations have not ceased and will not do so.

[Sukkariyah] Have they become "anniversary" operations, thus confined to celebrations of the 20th anniversary?

[Hawatimah] Not at all. They coincided with the 20th anniversary because we wanted to reaffirm the unity of all forms of struggle in our armed, political, and popular strategy along with the Palestinian people's indivisible unity.

On this anniversary, the unified leadership of the intifadah [uprising] issued a statement declaring 22 February a day of heated confrontation against Israel. Demonstrations were staged in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza. Rallies were also held in the [Palestinian refugee] camps in Lebanon and Syria, as well as in all the places of refuge and the diaspora.

Therefore, the military operations were staged to affirm the unity of the forms of struggle for return, freedom, and independence.

[Sukkariyah] Do you not see that there has been a reduction in these operations, compared with the early seventies, when they obtained good results?

[Hawatimah] This is a correct observation. The reasons for this are related to the circumstances of the struggle inside the occupied land. At the beginning of the intifadah, the Palestinian command adopted a unanimous decision to halt all military operations in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza. They also decided to follow the course of comprehensive popular confrontation, which constitutes the largest democratic protest movement staged by any national liberation movement since World War II.

The main reason for this was to prevent the occupation forces from letting loose and committing massacres in the occupied land. There is another aspect related to the objective circumstances surrounding us. The Arab fronts have closed in the face of the Palestinian revolution to a large extent, and the fighter is obliged to climb more than one fence to arrive in the occupied land to strike the enemy forces.

In the early years of our current revolution, all the Arab fronts surrounding Palestine were, for the most part, open to armed resistance. Then these borders began to close, putting the Palestinian revolutionary forces in very difficult situations.

[Sukkariyah] Was this further confirmed when the PLO denounced terrorism, specifically meaning such operations?

[Hawatimah] This is a wrong conclusion. The PLO has never issued any statements to this effect.

[Sukkariyah] I meant what Yasir 'Arafat said in Geneva.

[Hawatimah] All the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions, including the latest ones in Algiers, have confirmed the Palestinian people's right to continue armed struggle. Even UN resolutions distinguish between terrorism and a struggle for liberation and for independence.

The PNC has distinguished between armed struggle for liberation and terrorism since 1974. Since its foundation, the DFLP has taken a stand against individual operations outside the occupied territories, for ideological, organizational, and political reasons. We believe that the organized masses alone are capable of liberating their country, whereas spectacular operations by individuals leave the masses only spectators.

Meanwhile, the PLO organizations in which we participate have never made any decision to halt armed struggle against the enemy. You are referring here to a statement by Brother Yasir 'Arafat. It is better to ask him that question. The statement 'Arafat made on the night of 14 December 1988 deals with this point, among others. 'Arafat made this statement as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. This was not a decision by the PLO. In the DFLP, we expressed our opinion at the time and said that 'Arafat's remarks represent his own opinions, not PLO policy.

[Sukkariyah] We cannot distinguish between the PLO and its chairman or among PLO member groups. There is an overall policy. Objections, if they occur, should be in the verbal framework [fi al-itar al-lafzi]. Besides, what the United States requested for opening the dialogue was actually to stop these operations.

[Hawatimah] You are judging matters by their appearances. The PLO is a coalition of organizations and forces that represent all the segments and opinions of the Palestinian people. Coalitions are governed by a common program. We are committed to that program. Any deviation from the common denominator, any going backward or jumping ahead, is not binding on the national coalitions represented in the PLO.

Throughout PLO history, you find the common program and those who defend it. You can also find those who want to go back on this program to promote their own private programs. We have no commitment to such private programs. This is now clear in Palestinian responses issued by the PLO to hypocritical and obnoxious U.S. objections. The United States is demanding the PLO abide by what the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee said. In any case, 'Arafat has not declared the end of armed struggle, as the United States wanted him to do.

The United States wants to stop all forms of resistance to Israeli occupation. It sometimes expressed this under the call to halt armed struggle, sometimes under the call to calm the uprising, and sometimes under the call to stop

mutual violence between Palestinians and Israelis. All this is being rejected these days, as several PLO members including Faruq Qaddumi, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, and 'Abdallah Hurani, have responded to the U.S. protestations. They rejected and denounced these protestations and confirmed that the PLO is going to continue armed struggle. They have rejected U.S. demands because the violence originated with the Israeli occupation. The United States should pressure Israel to end its occupation.

[Sukkariyah] Does this not mean a distribution of roles?

[Hawatimah] Absolutely not.

[Sukkariyah] Some people say that whatever Yasir 'Arafat wishes to achieve politically, the DFLP is asked to accomplish militarily.

[Hawatimah] I do not know who you are talking about. However, I can say that we pursue a policy backed by 20 years of experience. Light should be shed on this. Our policy combines the unionist revolutionary national political line on the Palestinian and Arab level with the forms of popular political armed struggle. The DFLP fought and scored many successes in this fighting in view of its leading militant and political line, which is independent of all Arab, regional, and Palestinian axes.

[Sukkariyah] What are the points that you and Yasir 'Arafat agree upon, and what are the points upon which you differ? And who are the renegades you mentioned earlier?

[Hawatimah] Matters can be judged by facts. We agree with our brothers in Fatah on the basis of the PLO's joint program and the PNC resolutions.

[Sukkariyah] Does this include the recognition of Resolution 242?

[Hawatimah] We share with them everything that is adopted by PLO bodies. But we differ over everything else, and each one of us expresses his opinion and stand in his own language.

[Sukkariyah] Could you be more specific, if possible?

[Hawatimah] We agree with them over the program for the return and on self-determination and the independent state. We are against anything that deviates from this program. We agree with them over the recent Algiers resolutions, which brought together three integrated links that we refuse to dismantle. These links are the State of Palestine, the political statement, and the provisional government. We also agree with them over the resolutions adopted by the Arab Algiers summit that support the Rabat summit resolutions on Arab-Palestinian relations.

[Sukkariyah] What do you reject?

[Hawatimah] These are issues from the course of struggle in recent history. We have rejected the PNC meeting in Amman. We also rejected the signing of the Amman agreement. Further, we rejected all forms of dissension that occurred within the PLO, and we have struggled to end all such forms. We now struggle to consolidate the efforts for unify. We also rejected the statement that Brother Yasir 'Arafat made in Geneva on 14 December, and we considered it incompatible with the resolutions adopted by the PNC during its intifadah session.

[Sukkariyah] I asked you about Resolution 242.

[Hawatimah] Resolutions 242 and 338 have a special character. The political statement issued by the PNC in Algiers refers to linking Resolutions 242 and 338 with ensuring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, foremost of which is the right to self-determination. It also refers to Palestinian national rights and the need to respond to these rights in accordance with the UN resolutions on the Palestinian issue. Specifically, these are the two UN Security Council resolutions that have been accepted by the international community and all the Arab states including Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. The rights mentioned are the Palestinian people's national rights guaranteed by UN General Assembly resolutions. Hence, balance is established between the international will and the Arab and Palestinian will. We rejected Resolutions 242 and 338 as a sole political and legal basis for resolving the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian issue. We still reject and will continue to reject Resolutions 242 and 338 as the only political basis for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict, the crux of which is the Paletinian issue. Therefore, we reject U.S. conditions for dragging the PLO into accepting Resolutions 242 and 338, even if this were to serve as the sole basis for an international conference and the solution of the Middle East crisis. [passage omitted]

[Sukkariyah] Do you approve of the proposal made by the PLO chairman for establishing a confederation between Jordan and the PLO?

[Hawatimah] During more than one session, the PNC has repeatedly adopted a resolution on the principle of confederation between an independent state of Palestine and Jordan. This explicitly means that confederation would be established following the birth of all the institutions of Palestine in the occupied land of Palestine, by the voluntary choice of the two [Palestinian and Jordanian] peoples. We will not support any attempt to declare a confederation now, because we are well aware that American and West European as well as reactionary Arab pressures are being applied to declare a confederation now, not for the sake of this confederation but for the sake of returning to the formula of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.

[Sukkariyah] Will there be submission to the pressures you are talking about?

[Hawatimah] I do not believe that they have a chance of success even if there is any tactical response to these pressures, because the people of the intifadah under the administration of the Unified Command and the national coalition in the PLO insist on complete independence and the materialization of the Palestine state in the occupied Palestinian land. We recall that these pressures surfaced in statements made by the U.S. President on there being no room for an independent Palestinian state. By this, he is referring to the alternative; namely, a federation or confederation. He also called for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Calls in the same vein have also emerged in Western Europe, in statements made by Margaret Thatcher and others. These calls betray wickedness, because they still press for not recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our people.

All these pressures have been rejected so far by the PLO and everybody else. We in the DFLP have rejected them, reject them now, and will do so in the future, because we are conforming with the PLO program and the intifadah session resolutions. There will be no backing down on an independent Palestinian state. There is no solution short of an independent state for our people, alongside their right to return to their country in accordance with the sacred right of displaced persons to return to their own country.

[Sukkariyah] How can this state become a reality and not just ink on paper?

[Hawatimah] Any idea accepted by the masses will become an invincible material force on the ground, until it is embodied in institutions. This is the case with the Palestinian state ever since the approval of the PLO's interim national program in June 1974. As a front, we had the honor to contribute to this program. From 1974 to 1988, the PLO program was political and had not changed to take practical steps embodied in institutions. Nevertheless, the masses rallied around this program to make it get involved in institutions. What actually took place in November 1988 was to move this program to the implementation phase. In other words, this changed the slogan to a political plan embodied in the declaration of the state.

This state was later recognized by many countries. This clearly indicates that we do not build things on paper, but instead on a material base whose bridges are the broad masses. In this context, we may recall the Algerian experiment and many others. The Algerian Republic and its provisional government were proclaimed in September 1958, when Algeria was still occupied by the French colonialists. The Algerian masses rallied around this plan until they managed to make this republic a reality and expelled the occupation in July 1962. This is why I say that the Palestinian state has become a fact on both Middle East and world maps. The minimum that the Palestinian masses are determined to accept is an independent state and a guarantee of the Palestinian people's rights in accordance with the UN resolutions.

[Sukkariyah] The Algerian revolution raised the slogan of the land of all Algeria. You are talking about a state on part of the land of Palestine. My question is: If this state is established on this part of the land, will it be able to solve the problem of all the Palestinians who wish to return to Palestine?

[Hawatimah] In 1974, the PLO national program was ratified after dozens of years of our people's experience and struggle for the sake of their national rights. The program was specified an interim one because it was presented on the agenda of the time for the sake of establishing the independent Palestine state on all the Palestinian land that the enemy would be forced to vacate. Accordingly, the declaration of the Palestinian state did not delineate the borders of this state, because it is an issue that will be submitted for the agenda of the effective international conference. The struggle will continue to ensure the evacuation of the occupation from all the Arab and Palestinian land occupied in 1967. This is because the international community, including the USSR, the United States, and others, agree that the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip are occupied land. So are the Golan, pockets in Sinai, and later, southern Lebanon. The Israeli occupation should leave all these areas. But, a practical international formula has not yet been acquired to end the occupation. Our people's 16-month-old intifadah has emphasized that 2 million people, who represent all our people in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip, are stubbornly determined to defeat the occupation and build the independent Palestinian state.

[Sukkariyah] You did not tell us how the problem of all Palestinians will be resolved.

[Hawatimah] What I said was point one. Point two is that the PNC resolutions, the interim national programs, and the program and all the statements of the Unified Command of the intifadah underscore the right of return and the right for self-determination for all the people in accordance with the principles of human rights and UN resolutions. We are aware that this is a temporary solution [hall marhali], and this has been clearly stated. This is a solution that will create new subjective and objective circumstances leading to a new phase of struggle—the course of which we cannot predict right now—to achieve a democratic, just, and overall solution to the entire Palestinian issue, which has become increasingly complex over the years.

[Sukkariyah] How will the state, if it is established, be able to tackle the problem of loyalty for the Palestinians living in the land taken in 1948, that is, under the control of the Israeli occupation?

[Hawatimah] The proclamation of the birth of the State of Palestine has made it clear that this state belongs to the Palestinians wherever they are.

[Sukkariyah] Does this state have enough room for all of them?

[Hawatimah] This state does not need to have enough room for all the Palestinian people. In our view, this will be difficult. What matters is that the Palestinian people find their independent flag under which to live and seek attainment of their full rights. The Palestinian state will give the Palestinians their identity and defend their rights wherever they are. The Palestinians can struggle under their flag to secure their rights. The birth of the state creates a new situation with many implications that we cannot predict right now. To do so would be putting the cart before the horse.

[Sukkariyah] But, there will be legal restrictions imposed by international guarantees for such a state, if it is established.

[Hawatimah] The geographical and political map of many European, Asian, African, and Latin American nations changed several times in this century. Borders were mapped and remapped over again in international conferences. There are still national disputes among European countries, although their maps have been redrawn. In the Middle East, such matters are for the nations to decide according to their circumstances. Take, for example, our enemy. In 1947, the United Nations made a resolution partitioning our country and giving the enemy 54 percent of the historical land of Palestine. The enemy tore apart these international resolutions and, in May 1948, proclaimed a state on 77 percent of the land of Palestine. The enemy did not stop at that. It is driven by insatiable Zionist expansionism, the most recent example of which is [Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq] Shamir's statement yesterday that there will be no independent Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan and that the site of the Palestinian state is in Jordan.

[Sukkariyah] Will you not lose anything?

[Hawatimah] You are absolutely wrong—Shamir's expansionist ambitions in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza would be satisfied. I have said that we should not put history in sardine cans and seize the historical facts by canning them, because history is a continuous process. Not everything that floats on the river's surface truly expresses the active currents in the river. We must not judge anything from an inflexible perspective.

[Sukkariyah] Another question regarding the state, in the event it is established. Will this state diminish the Lebanese people's fear of the possibility of settlement [of Palestinian people in Lebanon]?

[Hawatimah] The assembling of Palestinians in Lebanon's camps is circumstantial and temporary, not the choice of our people, but imposed on them in 1948. The Palestinians in these camps have rejected and still reject all forms of settlement. They have borne arms for their return. Besides, the independent State of Palestine is for the Palestinians wherever they may be, taking care of their national and humanitarian affairs as is the case with any other state, which looks after its subjects in the diaspora.

[Sukkariyah] In other words, they remain where they are but hold the passports of the state that is to be established?

[Hawatimah] Not necessarily, a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict will stipulate the settlement of the refugees' problem through their return to their homeland according to the UN resolutions.

[Sukkariyah] Why do you use the word refugees?

[Hawatimah] Because refugees outside their homeland have a temporary status of no firm nature.

[Sukkariyah] Did you, along with Yasir 'Arafat, hand the rifle to General Michel 'Awn?

[Hawatimah] Our rifle on the front is being directed at the Zionist enemy's face, and the evidence of that is the military operations launched from southern Lebanon toward northern Palestine. Other evidence includes our firm assertion of placing all our rifles under the administration of the Lebanese nationalist forces according to the wishes of these forces.

[Sukkariyah] Why did 'Arafat hand his rifle to 'Awn?

[Hawatimah] He should be asked this question. We are against any commitments other than our mutual obligations with the Lebanese nationalist forces for the liberation of the border strip from the Israeli enemy.

[Sukkariyah] What political developments do you expect at this stage, especially in the event the Palestinian-American dialogue, which so far does not seem to be in good health, fails?

[Hawatimah] As the saying goes, any matter is dealt with at the appropriate time. We are concerned with the Palestinian-American dialogue and are striving to develop the U.S. Administration's stand from a dialogue to the recognition of the PLO's representative status.

[Sukkariyah, interrupting] Are they not imperialists!!?

[Hawatimah] ... And to acknowledge our people's right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of a Palestinian state and convene an effective international conference to search for a comprehensive and just solution in the Middle East.

As for the other point on imperialism, U.S. imperialism has not changed and will not change its aggressive character. It might change its color for tactical reasons, under the pressure of the intifadah and the international isolation afflicting it as a result of its absolute support for the Zionist enemy and its expansionist and colonialist plans.

By means of four tours of the region by former Secretary of State George Shultz, U.S. imperialism in fact tried to abort and break up the intifadah and to search for an alternative to the PLO. The answer of the people of the intifadah was always: Go home, Shultz; where are the Palestinian people's rights?

[Sukkariyah] But the PLO's answer has been to pant after a dialogue. By the way, will the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue resume shortly? As a leftist organization, why are you participating in this dialogue?

[Hawatimah] You are saying that the dialogue is apparently headed toward failure.

[Sukkariyah] Well, what do you say?

[Hawatimah] We say that, regardless of the outcome of the dialogue, we must continue the effort to get the United States to move on from the dialogue to the recognition of the PLO as the sole representative of our people, and also to the recognition of our people's rights, which have been endorsed by the United Nations. We say that a comprehensive political solution of the Middle East crisis must be within the framework of an international conference with full authority and with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and the parties to the Middle East conflict, including the PLO.

Whether or not this dialogue will achieve any results depends on the change in the balance of power in the field. Through Shultz' tours in 1988, U.S. imperialism tried to break up the intifadah, but its efforts foundered on the rock of the intifadah and its valiant leadership. U.S. imperialism also tried to make some Arab parties put pressure on the PLO to retract its right to be represented independently. I myself witnessed and heard this at the Algiers Arab summit in which I participated. These attempts failed, thanks to our insistence on the unity of representation, the independence of our people, and their right to establish an independent state.

Here, I would like to disclose an undeclared incident. Two weeks before the UN General Assembly's session was moved from the United States to Geneva, Gen Vernon Walters toured Western Europe. He went to the Vatican to inform them that the United States had decided to start a dialogue with the PLO and that "it was waiting for the suitable moment." In his view, this suitable moment meant exerting maximum pressure, in an attempt to take as much as possible from the PLO. We held the view that we should stand fast against all forms of U.S. pressure, so that it would respond to the will and the pressure of the intifadah without imposing any preconditions on the PLO.

The official dialogue has stopped since 15 November 1988. The United States has since exerted open and hidden pressures on the PLO to pressure it into stopping the armed struggle and curbing the intifadah. It is trying to force the PLO into adapting itself to all U.S. political approaches to various problems in the Middle East, and not only to the Palestinian issue. This is what we have always refused.

[Sukkariyah] Do you think that the PLO will agree to a direct dialogue with Israel, particularly since this was indicated by statements of Palestinian leaders, who said that they support a direct dialogue with Israel?

[Hawatimah] We insist on the need to act in accordance with the resolutions of the [PNC] session held in Algiers. We are equally against any attempts to fragmentize or break these resolutions into parts under any pressure. The only acceptable framework for resolving the Middle East problem is the international conference. Moreover, our Council's resolutions oppose unilateral or partial solutions. Hence, calls for bilateral or unilateral solutions will not find its way to the Palestinian ranks. When certain Palestinian voices advocate isolated bilateral solutions, we say that this runs counter to the national consensus resolutions, harms national unity, and sows the seeds of doubt and division among Palestinian ranks. The advocators of such solutions must give up even mere talk about this harmful game.

[Sukkariyah] Do you believe that the PLO's policy will fail?

[Hawatimah] I do not know what the question means exactly. However, anything that contradicts the PNC's resolutions on the basis that they are an indivisible whole will reach a dead end and fail.

[Sukkariyah] What is the nature of 'Arafat's proposal, which advocates a quadrilateral confederation embracing Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine?

[Hawatimah] Such a pattern of thought and solutions cannot survive. We, as a front, have declared that we reject such calls. These calls were originally made by William Quandt and others who came to Tunis to hold a dialogue with certain circles in the PLO Executive Committee. We said no to any Palestinian voices that advocate economic federation among Israel, Palestine, Jordan, and Lebanon.

[Sukkariyah] During his recent Middle East tour, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze called for bilateral meetings to solve the problem. This means a retreat from the idea of convening an international conference, which is basically a Soviet proposal. How do you view this?

[Hawatimah] We are aware of what took place during the discussions between Shevardnadze and the Palestinian delegation. We also have information about his tour in the region and what occurred earlier.

[Sukkariyah] What is this information? We want to know what information you have about what has not been declared.

[Hawatimah] I was in Moscow before the tour began. We held discussions there at the Foreign Ministry and the party's Central Committee. The discussions dealt in detail with conditions in the Middle East. The Soviet Union is a tireless advocate of the comprehensive solution within the framework of an effective international conference under the UN aegis. The most recent proof of this is Shevardnadze's statement in which he points out that Moscow is seeking to crystallize a proposal to be submitted at the Security Council. The proposal would empower the UN secretary general to appoint a personal envoy as a permanent roving ambassador in the Middle East whose tours would ultimately prove that there is an insistence on convening an effective international conference. Therefore, I say very clearly that the Soviet policy does not provide for any form of separate or bilateral solutions.

[Sukkariyah] What about Shevardnadze's statements in Cairo?

[Hawatimah] The Soviet Union talked about bilateral and tripartite consultations among the permanent members of the Security Council to figure out the necessary ideas in order to convene a preparatory committee for an effective international conference. Washington, however, is the main party obstructing the conference. For this reason, Shevardnadze proposed bilateral and tripartite talks with the Security Council permanent members to come out with ideas acceptable to these parties to pressure Washington to deal with these ideas that can be crystallized. What I mean by a preparatory committee is one composed of the five permanent Security Council members to come up with ideas and make plans to convene an international conference. This process is intended to facilitate the convening of an international conference.

[Sukkaryah] There are reports about a possible meeting among the five Arab parties of Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and the PLO?

[Hawatimah] I have no real information about convening such a meeting. We heard in the news a statement by brother Yasir 'Arafat and the Jordanian foreign minister, who responded that such an invitation is premature. Therefore, as far as I know, such a meeting is not likely to convene in Jordan in the near future. Shevardnadze called for a meeting among Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt. The outcome of his tour indicates that he received a positive response from these countries. But, so far, no practical steps have been taken in this direction. We would like to say that such a proposal is in line with the recent Algiers summit resolutions.

[Sukkariyah] Was it discussed in this proposal which party will represent Lebanon?

[Hawatimah] This is a domestic Lebanese issue and, as far as I know, the practical details about who will represent Lebanon were not discussed.

[Sukkariyah] Regarding the Soviet stand, reports say that unofficial Soviet parties uphold a confederation between Israel and a Palestinian state, whereas 'Arafat calls for a quadripartite confederation. In your view, do these two proposals constitute a basis for establishing a secular Palestinian state?

[Hawatimah] In all our talks in Moscow, we did not sense anything of this sort. What is being proposed is a comprehensive solution within the framework of an effective international conference and the Palestinian people's right to an independent state. This is the Soviet stand.

[Sukkariyah] Let us now turn to the issue of the government in exile. In 1972, you said that Jordan intended to establish a Palestinian government in exile, and that you were against this. In 1974, you declared that you had discussed the possibility of establishing a government in exile with Soviet officials. Today you are one of the zealots behind this idea.

[Hawatimah] We are against any alternative formula from the PLO. Therefore, we have and will continue to resist any alternative formula, be it personalities, organizations, divisions, or provisional government. At the PNC's session on the intifadah, we adopted a number of closely linked and inseparable resolutions. These resolutions were the proclamation of the Palestinian state; laying down the effective political and legal foundation of the international conference with its three bases and the two UN Security Council resolutions which reflect the international will; and the political and organizational structure of the provisional government. Upon brother Yasir 'Arafat's initiatives, Palestinian leaders held more than a session in which the issue of the provisional government was raised.

[Sukkariyah] Does the provisional government contradict the PLO in your view?

[Hawatimah] There is absolutely no contradiction according to the political and organizational bases that established that the provisional government will be an extension of the PLO. The PNC has also entrusted the PLO's Central Council and Executive Committee with controlling this provisional government. Even its political program will be on the PLO's. However, the formation and structure of this government were not determined during the meetings of Palestinian leaders. Several differences still persist in this regard.

[Sukkariyah] What are the obstacles obstructing its formation? Is it the allocation of tasks?

[Hawatimah] Absolutely not. This matter is out of the question, and it is the last thing we will consider. There are differences over the practical interpretation of the political and organizational bases that were approved by the PNC. One approach calls for forming a government embracing a majority of personalities, including elements from the occupied territories outside the framework of the unified command of the intifadah. Another approach insists that the coalition structure of the government should harmonize with the PNC decision. In other words, the government should be formed by elements from the PLO factions and other elements committed to the PLO, and the unified command should name personalities from within the occupied territories. The third approach believes the time is not yet ripe for such a government. Accordingly, it is not right to "turn our backs" to an issue that had been settled by the PNC, and which is persistently raised by our brother chairman of the Executive Committee at every meeting of Palestinian leaders. We also raise the issue in accordance with PNC resolutions. Therefore, it is not a question of timing, because this is the easiest element. Equally, it is not a question of task allocation, but of the political and organizational bases for forming the government. [passage omitted]

## PLO's 'Abbas Letter to Hawatimah Published

*JN0403161189 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic*
*2 Mar 89 p 28*

[Text] Tunis—PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu Mazin, sent an open letter to Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], in which he responded to the accusations included in a speech made by Hawatimah during a celebration held in the Al-Yarmuk refugee camp in Damascus on the DFLP's 20th anniversary. The speech also included threats to dismantle the ties of alliance in the framework of the PLO.

AL-ANBA' has obtained the text of the letter:

First of all, I have to extend my brotherly congratulations and greetings of fateful struggle against the common enemy on the 20th anniversary of the DFLP's foundation to the DFLP's fighters, cadres, friends, and leaders, because it is an anniversary of a faction that enjoys status in the leadership of the Palestinian people.

This anniversary could have passed within the framework of affirming the need to unite action and struggle inside the occupied homeland and activate the efficiency of our people's leadership on the path of liberation and within the framework of their political moves on all continents.

But may God fight those who stir sedition. The 20th anniversary could have become an anniversary to stress the consecration of the national alliance in the Palestinian people's ranks, entrench national unity within the framework of the PLO and the intifadah [uprising], and call for escalating the efficiency of political action of the people's leadership, represented by the PLO—the political movement that enjoys the welcome, and even the support of our people and also our most sincere friends, particularly the Soviet Union. And, it also enjoys different forms of support from the forces of peace, democracy, and liberation in the world—peoples, organizations, and governments. Instead of all this, we hear other talk.

It seems that Abu al-Nawf [Nayif Hawatimah], during this period of time, and particularly after the Palestine National Council [PNC] emergency session—the session of the intifadah and Martyr Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]—has a "special" political temperament that is based on extreme egotism, which reaches to the level of blindness in seeing others, no matter how much power or influence they may have.

This egoism was clearly manifested in Abu al-Nawf's lengthy speech to a large popular gathering in Al-Yarmuk camp to mark the DFLP's 20th anniversary. Hawatimah allowed himself to create "political dangers" whose peddling Comrade Nayif will not permit.

Indeed, it was possible to overlook Nayif's remarks about the Amman agreement and the joint delegation, and before this his remarks while in Moscow about the provisional government plan, and still before this the accusations leveled against some Palestinian parties during the Palestinian leaders' dialogue to the effect that they adopt the "Shultz plan." It was also possible to regard these statements as something to which we have become accustomed in the Palestinian arena—something that levels haphazard accusations to show supremacy, vanguardism, and sometimes to show distinction with anything and for the sake of anything. Some people understand relations among Palestinian parties without leveling prior accusations. However, those who level such accusations are more aware than others of the truth and dimensions of moves that were often agreed upon within the Palestinian leadership and the PLO Executive Committee.

However, what prompted us to pause before this now is the fact that Abu al-Nawf is no longer content with leveling accusations and granting certificates of "nationalism" and "revolutionarism" because "this is not important," but his speech took the form of a threat to disengage the alliance and demolish "the edifice of national unity" if the "advocates of retreat" do not abandon the resolutions of the PNC's 19th session—advocates who respond to Washington's pressures on the PLO.

1. We would like to emphasize that Palestinian national unity has never been an object of amusement for this or that faction or for this or that leader. This unity is a national Palestinian embodiment for which we have fought and which we have defended and cared for just as

we have cared for our independent national decisionmaking at a time when some people were searching for a foothold as part of a specific geographic framework at a specific time. Consequently, he who imagines the "edifice of national unity" is so soft should remove his dreams, because the solid unity among our people's ranks and within the intifadah is firmer and deeper than the farce used in the "enthusiastic and fiery specches" whose meanings are not accurately applied. Here we recall that those who built unity are more capable of safeguarding and defending it, because unity is actually a victorious weapon designed to obtain our rights to repatriation and self-determination and also to embody our national independence in the independent State of Palestine.

2. Regarding the recent PNC resolutions, what is astonishing here is that every leader made a lengthy speech during the dialogue that was held on the eve of the PNC session, and that "all sides know all sides' stands"! The recent PNC resolutions have constituted a historic turning point for our people. This turning point has embodied the degree of political maturity among our people and their leadership, responded to the views and concepts of the blessed intifadah, and constituted the material basis for the Palestinian political action on the Arab and international levels. Our Soviet friends have said that these resolutions were able to create a radical change in world public opinion in favor of the Palestinian people and their national cause.

Regarding its comprehensive political offensive, which has isolated Israel in an unprecedented manner and forced the United States to open a dialogue with the PLO, at this stage the Palestinian leadership makes its decisions on their own because of the lack of vital dialogue, let alone the consideration of the stand of West Europe and others. We can affirm that this Palestinian political action has come to pave the way for the grounds of a preparatory action on a political settlement of the Middle East crisis, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Palestine question from all its aspects. So where is the retreat here? Moreover, what has stimulated Nayif's appetite for returning to "the Amman agreement" and the "joint delegation"? Are there actually calls in this regard that no one knows about except Comrade Nayif, or is this a continuation of the game of creating "enemies and dangers" as a prelude to achieving "victories" in the manner of Don Quixote. Brother Nayif has raised such issues in his statements to the Soviet paper IZVESTIYA on what he called "'Arafat's plan" on the provisional government. All participants in the Palestinian leadership's meeting who discussed this issue realize that this plan is baseless and that no one has heard of it, even the man after whom the plan is named, brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], except through Nayif's statements to IZVESTIYA, taking into consideration that he has given political and national dimensions, and here we are waiting for that plan.

However, Comrade Nayif has a special ability to create plans that have "class essence" and to which there are several parties from the "right and adventurous left," and then in the name of the people and the revolution and out of sincerity to them, he is able to defeat all these plans and to stand on their ruins, pledging to continue on the road of confronting such plans and conspiracies until victory is achieved over illusion.

3. If we overlook all this and consider the timing of these statements, which always cast doubt on the moves of the Executive Committee, its chairman brother Abu 'Ammar, and the Palestinian leadership, we will be compelled to doubt the aim of these statements. At a time when the Palestinian political movement achieves more successes, defeats the Israel enemy, confuses the U.S. Administration, and secures an unprecedented Palestinian, Arab, and international rally around the PLO and its positions, brother Nayif cries loudly from Damascus and addresses the Palestinian leadership: Where are you going? Stop it. This resounding cry should have been directed at another issue and for another purpose, brother Nayif. It should not have attacked Palestinian political action. Brother Shevardnadze's speech in Cairo on 23 February and before that his meeting with brother Abu 'Ammar and the Executive Committee delegation have defined the dimensions, importance, and vitality of that action. O God protect our Soviet friends from being accused of bowing to U.S. pressures.

4. Regarding Palestinian affiliation to Arab regional axes, we would like to draw Comrade Nayif's attention the fact that we have always been against such axes. We have paid a high price for this policy, O comrade. We believe that anything that serves the Palestinian cause cannot pass through these axes, because we cannot say this axis is good and that one is bad. This is how we understand Arab relations and solidarity on the basis of our independent national Palestinian decisionmaking. We had differences with many Arab regimes on this point, especially with our brothers in Syria, because they had a different view on this point. This is the basis of our differences with them, and we hope that this will not be the basis of our differences with you.

We thought before we wrote, but as long as our goal is the preservation of national unity, we can say: This is not the way to safeguard national unity. The way is well-known and tested. We, at least at this particular time, do not need such advice. It is you who needs it, brother Nayif. In order to have a sound dialogue and a "clash of ideas" during the intifadah and depart from a false consensus, bodies and ideas should be purified. Let us return to the right way within the framework of the law of unity and conflict. We need much work and little talk. This is the law of the intifadah or Comrade Nayif.

## Algeria

### Assembly Ratifies Arab Maghreb Union Treaty

*LD0903180889 Algiers APS in English 1135 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Algiers, 9/3/89 (APS) The People's National Assembly (APN) ratified on Wednesday during works of its extraordinary session, the draft bill on the approbation of the treaty on the creation of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) signed in Marrakech on 17 February 1989.

At the beginning of the session which was chaired by Rabah Bitat, APN president and which was attended by Kasdi Merbah, head of government, ministers and ambassadors of the Maghreb countries, Boualem Bessaieh, foreign affairs minister delivered a speech in which he recalled Algeria's vision of the Maghrebin unitary work.

In this context, he said that "all the concepts it includes are decisive regarding the sound, solid and lasting whole we want to build up with our partners brothers."

On another turn, the rapporteur of the Foreign Affairs Commission presented the report relating to the cited draft bill. He first of all referred to Algeria's unitary action and its contribution with the Maghrebin counties to the setting up of a climate favourable to the holding of the Marrakech meeting and the definition of a solid basis for the constitutive treaty of the Arab Maghreb Union.

Following the adoption of the draft bill, Bitat pointed out that the adoption of the treaty which constitutes a decisive work on the way of the Arab Maghreb edification is an obvious evidence of our country's faith in a common future for all the peoples of the region. He added that the modern world and the new systems of the organization of the world economy imposed the emergency of an action leading to the complementarity between the Maghrebin countries.

### Mitterrand Arrives in Algiers for Talks

*LD0903145289 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Excerpts] [Announcer] French President Francois Mitterrand arrived in Algiers this morning for a 2-day working visit. President Chadli Bendjedid was at the airport to welcome President Francois Mitterrand.

Sliman Mabrouki was also at the airport when the French president arrived and sent the following report: [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Mabrouki] At the airport VIP lounge the French president made a statement to the press. He said:

[Mitterrand] It was another opportunity for me to express my happiness to be yet again in Algeria to visit your country. At the same time I would like to express to the Algerian people my feelings, my wishes for the success of the people and for the success of their leaders. What I would like to say here is that after all this time it is a great opportunity for me to meet President Chadli Bendjedid as well as an opportunity to hold working and friendly talks with him during my visit. I am expecting that my fresh meeting with Algerian officials will not only resolve all the pending problems, as there are always problems between the big countries, but also to record the progress already attained. At the same time we will draw a program of action for the coming years. I came here to see you with a feeling of fulfilling more than one duty, the duty of friendship. [passage omitted]

### Confers With Bendjedid

*LD0903160289 Algiers APS in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Algiers, 9 Mar (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid and his French counterpart President Francois Mitterrand had tete-a-tete talks today, Thursday, at Zeralda Residence in the suburbs of the capital. Talks were then extended to the foreign ministers of the two countries, Messrs Boualem Bessaieh and Roland Dumas.

The president of France arrived earlier today in Algiers on a 2-day working visit. President Francois Mitterrand stated that what he expects from his new meeting with the high-ranking officials in Algeria is to define all the issues submitted for discussion and to register the progress made up to now.

After indicating that there are always bilateral issues to discuss President Francois Mitterrand said that he will set up an agenda with the Algerian officials for the coming years. He added: I would like to say that after all the time that has past, I consider my meeting with President Chadli Bendjedid for consultations an important event.

### Ends Visit, Departs

*LD1003093589 Paris Domestic Service in French 0900 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] Francois Mitterrand ended his visit to Algeria. The French President left Algiers barely an hour ago. Talking to journalists just before his departure, Francois Mitterrand showed great warmth toward President Chadli. The two men held a total of about 10 hours of talks yesterday. The French President mentioned the process of democratization which has been under way in Algeria since the riots of last October. He voiced optimism over the future of relations between France and Algeria, in particular in the economic field. He indicated he would return to the Maghreb when France takes over the Presidency of the European Economic Community on 1 July.

### Communique Signed With Iranian Oil Minister

*LD0903201589 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Algeria and Iran reiterate their willingness to work to strengthen and unify OPEC. They reafirm on the other hand their strong attachment to the decisions of the last conference of the organization. The objective is to reach the level of $18 a barrel as stipulated by the November agreement. This is stated in a joint communique ending Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh 's visit to Algeria.

Aqazadeh's talks with his Algerian counterpart Mr Sadek Boucena focused particularly on the situation prevailing in the international oil market and on the prospect of widening bilateral cooperation. On the latter point, the two ministers decided to look for a bigger economic complementarity particularly in the fields of oil, gas, petrochemistry, and by-products. In this context, they agreed to increase the number of meetings between officials of the two sectors to concretize these decisions.

## Egypt

### 'Abd al-Majid Assesses EEC Role, Rushdie Issue

*NC1003122889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] Brussels, 10 Mar (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, called on the EEC to invite Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to visit Brussels, the EEC headquarters. 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt wants the 12 EEC members to intensify their dialogue with the PLO. 'Abd al-Majid is visiting Brussels as a member of President Husni Mubarak's delegation. He made these remarks in an interview with the Belgian newspaper LA LIBRE BELGIQUE, published today.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid noted that a three-member European ministerial committee had met with 'Arafat. He added that a visit to Brussels by the Palestinian leader would advance European-Palestinian dialogue and give the Europeans a chance to hear what 'Arafat has to say. Dr 'Abd al-Majid stated that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue has started and, despite difficulties, is continuing.

It is worth mentioning that the foreign ministers of Spain, France, and Greece met with 'Arafat in Madrid on 27 January as part of EEC efforts to stimulate Middle East peace efforts.

Answering a question on Egypt's role in encouraging the EEC to recognize the PLO, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that this topic will be among the major issues President Husni Mubarak will raise in his current European tour, which includes Belgium, the Netherlands, and the FRG. 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt is pinning great hopes on efforts to help find a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis through an international peace conference. Egypt believes that the EEC is sympathetic and interested in finding a peaceful solution to this problem, he said. The proof of this, he added, is the recent tour of the Middle East by three European foreign ministers. They visited Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

In the interview, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that peace is not a gift for Israel to give to the Arabs. Peace is essential to the Israelis themselves. On Israel's opposition to an international conference for peace in the Middle East and its demand for direct negotiations, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister pointed out that it is a matter of a difference over means, not over ends. He stressed the need for the Syrians and Israelis to discuss the issue of the Golan. He added, however, that the Palestinian issue must be discussed by the Egyptians, Jordanians, and Israelis.

In his interview with the Belgian newspaper, 'Abd al-Majid emphasized that an international conference for peace in the Middle East is seen as the way to solve the Middle East crisis. He added that this is being accepted by the EEC as well as Egypt and other countries. Answering a question on the Camp David accords, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the purpose of these accords was to find "a start" for a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem. At that time, 'Abd al-Majid added, there had been lengthy discussions about self-rule, but Egypt's understanding of self-rule differed greatly from that of the Israelis. For Egypt, self-rule is not an end in itself, but a step toward self-determination for the Palestinians. He stressed the importance of dialogue among the concerned parties, saying that the principle of dialogue is accepted by the international community, and by the Americans, who used to have reservations about it.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid was asked about "The Satanic Verses," the book written by Salman Rushdie, a British national of Indian origin, and the tension it has caused in European-Iranian relations. 'Abd al-Majid said that Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni has created this problem, the escalation of which is not in the interest of either side. He stressed Egypt's condemnation of the book.

'Abd al-Majid pointed out that the problem of the book "The Satanic Verses" falls within the domain of the religious authorities and that if the author had committed a sin, then he should be punished. He added that Khomeyni had no right to sentence Rushdie to death. At the end of his interview with the Belgian paper, 'Abd al-Majid said that Arab countries had not remained silent over Rushdie's book and that Al-Azhar had promptly condemned it.

### Mubarak Makes Official Visit to Belgium

For coverage of President Husni Mubarak's visit to Belgium, see the Benelux section of the 10 March West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

### British Overseas Development Minister Visits

*NC0703064789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2305 GMT 6 Mar 89*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—Christopher Patten, British minister of overseas development, arrived in Cairo tonight on a 2-day visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

### Meets With 'Abd al-Majid

*NC0803221789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 8 Mar 89*

[Text] Cairo, 8 Mar (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Christopher Patten, British minister of overseas development, this evening. They discussed ways to develop and strengthen bilateral relations, the latest developments in the Middle East—particularly the Palestinian issue—and efforts to promote the peace process in the area and establish the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid expressed Egypt's appreciation for Britain's participation in the infrastructure projects in Egypt.

The meeting was attended by Sir James Adams, the British ambassador in Cairo, and Husayn Hassunah, the director of the foreign minister's office.

### Signs Mining Agreement

*NC0903213089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Cairo, 9 Mar (MENA)—Egypt and Britain signed an agreement today on developing the Al-Magharah coal mine in northern Sinai.

Under the agreement, Britain will extend to Egypt a $64 million loan and a $21 million grant. The agreement was signed on Egypt's behalf by 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, and for Britain by Christopher Patten, minister of overseas development, who is currently visiting Egypt.

### Concludes Visit, Departs

*NC1003071589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2315 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Cairo, 9 Mar (MENA)—Christopher Patten, British minister of overseas development, left Cairo for Turkey this evening after a 3-day visit to Egypt. The British minister held talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and a number of officials on ways to strengthen Egyptian-British cooperation. He also signed an agreement today according to which Britain will extend a loan to Egypt for the development of the Al-Magharah coal mine in northern Sinai.

### Coptic Party Founder Withdraws Formation Request

*JN0603132289*

[Editorial report] Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic on 3 March publishes on pages 18, 19 a 2,200-word report by Majid 'Atiyah on the proposed new Coptic party in Egypt, "The Social Peace and the National Unity Party." The report includes a 900-word interview with Habil Tawfiq Sa'id, founder of the party. In this interview, Habil responds to a question on whether he knew that religious parties conflict with the provisions of the law by saying: "I knew this only from AL-MUSAWWAR magazine. I read an opinion by Dr Ahmad Salamah, chairman of the Parties Affairs Committee." Sa'id adds: "It is the opinion that the party I asked to form conflicts with the provisions of Paragraph 3 of Article 4 of the Political Parties Law."

Asked if he expected a violent reaction to his request to form a party, Habil Tawfiq Sa'id says: "If I expected such a reaction I would not make such a request. This reaction has shed light on the issue of social peace and national unity and placed it on the dialogue agenda." When asked what he will do now that the Coptics opposed him before the Muslims, he says: "You suggested that we consider the request to form a party something that did not happen. What shall we do now? We can seek withdrawal of the request." The interviewer then says: "This is exactly where our dialogue must end. Will you do this now?" Habil Tawfiq Sa'id says: "Yes, I will do this. And tomorrow I will give you a copy of a statement addressed to the Consultative Council president, the chairman of the parties' affairs committee, the socialist public prosecutor, and the Security Department, asking that the request to establish this party be withdrawn." The report then says that the man came with a copy of these statements, withdrawing his request to form a Coptic party.

## Libya

### General People's Congress Names New Cabinet

*LD0903190789 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1740 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] The general resolutions of the General People's Congress.

1. The General People's Congress decided to choose the secretariat of the General People's Congress in the following manner:

Brother Dr Miftah al-Usta 'Umar, secretary of the congress;

Ibrahim Misbah Abu Khazzam, assistant secretary;

Sister Salmin 'Ali al-'Uraybi, assistant secretary;

Brother 'Umar Muhammad Ashqal, secretary of the affairs of the popular congresses;

Brother Sulayman (Sasi al-Shuhumi), secretary of the affairs of the popular committees;

Brother Bashir Huwayj (Huwadi), secretary of the vocational congresses.

2. The General People's Congress decided to to choose the General People's Committee in the following manner:

Brother 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee;

Brother Eng Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation;

Brother Fawzi al-Shakshuki, secretary of the People's Committee for Petroleum;

Brother Eng Mubarak (al-Shamikh), secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Transport;

Brother Ahmad Muhammad Ibrahim, secretary of the People's Committee of Higher Education;

Brother Dr Farhat Sharmanna, secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy and Commerce;

Brother Dr Muhammad Lutfi Farhat, secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning;

Brother Dr Mustafa Muhammad al-Za'idi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Health;

Brother Dr Ahmad Fathi ibn Shatwan, secretary of the People's Committee for Strategic Industries;

Brother Muhammad al-Madani al-Bukhari, secretary of the General People's Committee for the Treasury;

Brother Dr Rajab Miftah Abu Dabbus, secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture;

Brother Miftah Muhammad (Ki'ayb), secretary of the General People's Committee for Maritime Resources;

Brother Eng Ma'tuq Muhammad Ma'tuq, secretary of the General People's Committee for Training and vocational training;

Brother 'Ali al-Sha'iri secretary of the General People's Committee for Mass Mobilization and Revolutionary Guidance;

Brother Eng Nuri al-Fayturi al-Madani, secretary of the People's Committee for Scientific Research;

Brother Eng 'Abd al-Majid al-Qu'ud, secretary of the General People's Committee for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation;

Brother 'Izz al-Din al-Hinshiri, secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice;

Sister Fatimah 'Abd al-Hafiz Mukhtar, secretary of the General People's Committee for Education;

Brother Eng Amin Hilmi 'Uthman Kamil, secretary of the General People's Committee for Light Industries.

3. The General People's Congress decided to merge all the quarters in charge of external action with the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation. The popular committee of the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation should be formed from the secretaries of the quarters concerned.

4. The General People's Congress decided to abolish the General People's Committee for Public Service. The General People's Committee is entrusted with the task of distributing its duties.

## Al-Mahdi Departs Banghazi After GPC Session

*LD0803181889 Tripoli JANA in English 1655 GMT 8 Mar 89*

[Text] Al-Bayan al-Awal, Al-Marrikh [March] 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr. al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the prime minister of sisterly Sudan, has left the city of Al-Bayan al-Awal-Banghazi this morning—following the conclusion of his visit to great Al-Jamahiriyah attending some of the meetings of the General People's Congress [GPC] in its 15th session.

Mr. al-Mahdi was seen off by Col. Abu Bakir Yunis Jabir at Benina International Airport. He was also seen off by the secretary of the people's congress of the municipality of Banghazi and the ambassador of Sudan accredited to great Al-Jamahiriyah.

Before departing, Mr. al-Mahdi, commenting to JANA at Benina Airport, says that this visit comes within the purview of enriching and promoting the relations between the two sisterly countries and to convey congratulations to the brotherly Libyan Arab people on the celebrated anniversary of the announcement of the establishment of people's power and the birth of the first Jamahiriyah in history [words indistinct] his best wishes to the Libyan Arab people wishing it further progress and welfare in achieving the noble principles of the great Al-Fatih [September] Revolution.

## JANA Criticizes U.S. Official's Comments

*LD0803182189 Tripoli JANA in English 1708 GMT 8 Mar 89*

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Marrikh [March] 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A senior U.S. official commented on the visit of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to great Jamahiriyah saying: "This visit is nothing but an attempt to head away from doing more urgent things."

JANA's international affairs editor commented on the statements of the U.S. official by saying: "It is a strange thing that America interferes in internal Arab affairs and in matters relating to the Arab nation and the African peoples."

He explained: "It is prudent and wise that the U.S. keeps away from interfering in the affairs of the region's people who alone are able to find the ideal suitable solutions to all their problems."

The editor asserted that America had tried in the past, through its previous administration, to poke its nose in Arab and African affairs which results brought failure and disappointment to U.S. policies.

The international affairs editor concluded by saying: "We, in turn, hope that the previous Reagan line will not be repeated."

## Sudan

### MENA Reports Expectations of New Government

*NC1003145989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Mar (MENA)—MENA has learned from informed sources that the resignations of the ministers in the current Sudanese Government will be submitted to the chairman of the Council of State tomorrow to be approved and to pave the way for forming the new cabinet.

The new Sudanese cabinet is expected to be announced on Sunday or Monday after concluding ongoing consultations with the National Islamic Front, which is headed by Dr Hasan al-Turabi, who made his participation in the new cabinet conditional upon the introduction of an amendment to the forthcoming government's plan by adding a new item concerning the Islamic sharia [jurisprudence].

Chairman of the Council of State is continuing his meetings with Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the Armed Forces General Staff Command, and party leaders, to end the crisis and form an expanded cabinet including all parties, federations, and trade unions to begin the implementation of the forthcoming government's phasal program signed by all political parties in Sudan except the Islamic front.

In press statements today, Sudanese Prime Minister al-Mahdi said that the new government will be formed according to the phasal program, which all the political parties and forces have signed, without introducing any amendments.

Al-Mahdi added that the Islamic Front will decide on its participation in the government in light of the consultations which will be held today.

Al-Mahdi stressed that he is keen that the period between the dissolution of the present government and the formation of the new one will not exceed 24 hours to avoid a constitutional vacuum. He denied any interference in power by the Armed Forces.

Following his meeting with Al-Mahdi today to discuss a solution to the current crisis, Hasan Tajj al-Din, member of the Council of State, said that the new government will be announced in 48 hours according to the phasal program and without any changes.

In another development, the General Staff Command of the Sudanese Armed Forces held a meeting which was chaired by Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali and included all the commanders of the branches at the command headquarters in Khartoum.

Lt Gen Mahdi Abu Nimr, chief of the general staff, also attended the meeting, which convened to discuss an alternative to the current crisis and developments in Sudan.

The Democratic Unionist Party today sent a letter to the Council of State stressing the need to hasten the dissolution of the present government and proceed immediately toward forming the expanded government.

The trade unions in Sudan yesterday boycotted the negotiations with the Al-Ummah party regarding the new government because of the new conditions which the party demanded from the unions leaders during the meeting they held under the chairmanship of Dr Bashir 'Amr, culture and information minister.

Informed sources of the Sudanese Civil Servants Union said that Al-Mahdi stipulated that the trade union federations must commit themselves to stop the strikes if they want to be represented in the new government. However, the federations rejected this condition and decided to meet on Saturday.

The hunger strike, which the unemployed graduates began yesterday, will continue until they receive an answer to their memorandum rejecting the examination which the public service minister stipulated as a condition for assigning them to the state's posts.

### Prime Minister Thanks U.S. for 'Support'

*EA0503205989 Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT 5 Mar 89*

[Text] Khartoum, 5th March SUNA—Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has expressed appreciation for the U.S. President's and the White House spokesman's statements in support of the current democratic system. He expressed hope that Sudanese-U.S. relations will develop in the framework of respect for the democratic regime, restoration of international peace, respect of human rights and mutual cooperation.

### Al-Mahdi Denies Armed Militia in Ummah Party

*EA0503205389 Khartoum SUNA in English 1712 GMT 5 Mar 89*

[Text] Khartoum, 5th March SUNA—Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has denied the presence of an armed militia in his party, saying that the Ansar militants carried arms against the defunct regime of May but they surrendered them to the Armed Forces after returning home from abroad. He said that some Arab and African tribes possessed arms to protect themselves against rebel attacks but they were not [passage indistinct] work.

He said in a press statement here today that Sudan will adopt a nonaligned foreign policy, indicating that Sudanese people did not want to be aligned to any side.

### 'About 25,000' Refugees From Nimule Enter Uganda

*EA0903171789 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Nairobi, 9 Mar (SUNA)—Taj al-Din Abbas, the Sudanese ambassador in Kampala, has confirmed that about 25,000 people and 300 soldiers have entered the (?Bibia) area in northern Uganda from the town of Nimule, which was recently evacuated. He said the Sudanese Embassy is making every necessary effort to shelter these people in cooperation with the Ugandan Government and the UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees] mission. He went on to say that another group had entered from the Torit and Farajok areas and was currently heading for the town of Kitgum. First estimates give their number as about 1,000 and (?in this respect) the Ugandan Government is dealing with the matter with the total cooperation of the Embassy [words indistinct].

### Foreign Ministry Informed

*NC1003150989 Cairo MENA in English 1447 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] Khartoum, March 10 (MENA)—The Foreign Ministry received today a memorandum from the Sudanese ambassador in Kampala to the effect that 25,000 civilians and 600 military men entered Arnabani region north Uganda coming from Sudanese Nimule city which was evacuated after being seized by the rebels last week.

The ambassador said the Sudanese Embassy in Kampala exerts its utmost to find refuges for the emigrants in collaboration with the Ugandan Government.

### Committee To 'Tackle' Problem

*EA1003124589 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] Khartoum, 10th March SUNA—A committee from the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs has been formed to tackle the issue of 25,000 Sudanese citizens and about 300 Armed Forces troops who lately crossed southern Sudan borders into Uganda following the evacuation of the far southern Sudanese town of Nimule, which was attacked by the SPLA rebels, announced culture and information minister, Dr Bashir Umar here yesterday. The committee, which is expected to fly soon to Uganda to start its work, will coordinate with Sudan's ambassador in Kampala, Taj al-Din Abbas, in order to reach a quick solution to the said issue, the minister said.

A previous similar case of Sudanese nationals entering Ugandan borders was positively tackled due to good cooperation with the Ugandan Government and its understanding of the nature of the situation in southern Sudan, the minister added.

### Rebels Request More Aid for Refugees

*EA0603182789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Libeation Army in English 1300 GMT 6 Mar 89*

[Text] In another development, the official spokesman of the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] said the movement is making a request to the international committee [as heard] to increase assistance to internal and external refugees displaced by the recent battles of Torit, Farajok, Nimule, and Liria and the impending battle for Juba as well as for the displaced people of Western Equatoria, especially the Bari areas where last year's crops were consumed by locusts and grasshoppers.

### Army Spokesman Denies Weapons Shipment Received

*EA0503182589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Mar 89*

[Text] The Armed Forces official spokesman denied reports in today's issue of some local newspapers regarding the arrival at Khartoum Airport of weapons for the Armed Forces worth $500 million. His excellency said this information is baseless. The Armed Forces official spokesman said publication of such news will not serve the homeland or its security.

### Expatriates in Qatar Send Aid to Military

*EA0803170289 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1245 GMT 8 Mar 89*

[Text] Yesterday, the general secretariat of the Republican Palace received a check for 30,000 U.S. dollars donated by the Sudanese community in the State of Qatar in support of the Armed Forces.

### Government Fights Rebels in Wau, Malakal

*EA0903192989 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1245 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] The Armed Forces in the operational areas are continuing efforts to restore security and peace for the citizens, to transport food and supplies to famine-hit areas, and to return property stolen from the citizens by the outlaws. Units of Aweil forces have arrived in Wau with a convoy of 230 lorries loaded with food to relieve the food crisis in the town.

In the Upper Nile region, a (word indistinct) of the Badr vanguards has arrived in Malakal after (words indistinct) the Akobo station and Waat and is restoring security in the area by mopping up pockets of rebels. Our forces in Wau also recovered large numbers of livestock, totalling 300 head, belonging to local citizens. The livestock had been stolen by the outlaws. The livestock was recovered after a clash with the outlaws, on whom our forces inflicted heavy losses.

**Rebels Send Warning to Government Soldiers**
*EA0603180489 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 6 Mar 89*

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] Listeners, today I would like to tell Sadiq al-Mahdi's soldiers who are still awaiting orders from Khartoum that they all know that Khartoum can no longer relieve them in any way. This is precisely why the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] official spokesman has warned them either to join the SPLA or withdraw peacefully from these besieged towns. SPLA will not harm them, for they would not be the first government soldiers to join the SPLA. Even if Sadiq al-Mahdi himself comes to join us he is very much welcome into the ranks of our movement. We would give him a gun to fight alongside us.

Sadiq al-Mahdi and his brother-in-law, Turabi, always deceive these poor soldiers into thinking that they will get military aid from either Juba or Khartoum. But we would like to assure these soldiers and their civilian commanders in Khartoum that whatever comes, by whatever means, we will capture or destroy it and nothing will ever reach them. We therefore would like you to believe us now, especially those who used to doubt us. For there is more evidence that can make you believe in whatever we say. What we say happens. [passage omitted]

## Kuwait

### Minister Speaks on Future of Expatriate Labor

*JN0903164489 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 8 Mar 89 p 4*

[Excerpt] Expatriate labourers in the oil-producing countries may soon begin returning to their own countries, Social Affairs and Labour Minister Shaykh Nasir Muhammad Al-Ahmad said yesterday. Addressing the 17th Arab Labour Conference being held in Rabat, Nasir said that the drop in oil revenues combined with the completion of infrastructure projects in oil-producing countries, in addition to their increasing number of university graduates, raises a big question about the future of expatriate manpower in these countries.

Shaykh Nasir said that in terms of the Arab World, the return of expatriate manpower to their own countries will create a number of problems, including the reduction of foreign currency remittances from these workers, an adverse effect on the labour markets of these countries, and other related social problems. This issue requires more attention, the minister said.

The aggravation of the economic crisis in the Arab World with its complications greatly increases the intensity of social problems in Arab countries, Shaykh Nasir went on. Immigration from the countryside to cities is one of the main problems in many Arab countries, he said, adding that the failures and defeats faced by the Arab world between 1965 and 1985 constituted an important factor in determining its future and its ability to face the challenges of social and economic development.

Shaykh Nasir also called upon the conference to discuss the expected results of Europe's planned economic unity on the Arab Maghreb states, in particular its effect on Arab manpower in Europe. The minister went on to say that the wide-spread use of computers and other modern innovations has created the need for restraining employees in the Arab Labour market.

At the same time, he said, "We should be very careful about the expected adverse effects of the use of modern techniques." He suggested carrying out a study on the social effects of technological innovations in order to evaluate the various aspects of the issue. The Arab labour market has been suffering from many tensions, he explained, and needs no more.

Shaykh Nasir hailed the Palestinian uprising and the declaration of the Palestinian state, saying the second half of last year and the first two months of this year have carried positive and optimistic signs. [passage omitted]

### Expatriates Cite Hardships

*JN0903164289 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 8 Mar 89 p 4*

[Text] A number of Arab expatriates in Kuwait have appealed to the authorities to offer more facilities for renewing residence permits or transfering them from family permits to work permits, a local daily reported.

One expatriate, 'Umar al-Salim, said that his son, who is studying abroad, has had to maintain employment with a local company in order to maintain his residence here. He added that family residence permits cannot be transferred to work permits, and hopes that officials will solve the problem.

Muhammad Ahmad agreed that many expatriate families are suffering hardship under local residence laws. Many children were born in this country and studied in its schools, he pointed out, but are then obliged to go abroad to continue their studies in foreign universities, which causes them to lose their residence permits here. Ahmad called on officials to make exceptions for expatriates who are born here and spend most of their lives in Kuwait.

Another expatriate called on the authorities to reconsider a law which does not allow students over 21 years old to renew their residence permits if they are studying out of Kuwait. The authorities, he said, should show sympathy to Palestinian students holding travel documents who study abroad, because they face serious problems when their residence permits are cancelled.

Ahmad Najm meanwhile praised Kuwait as a country for all Arabs where all people live in peace and freedom, adding that he is very optimistic that the students' problem will be solved. Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah is known for his good human values, he added.

Still, many families have been scattered because their children were obliged to leave Kuwait after having their residence permits cancelled at the age of 21, according to Akram Mahdawi. He added that many Palestinians carrying travel documents cannot get visit visas for their children or relatives wishing to visit them in Kuwait.

The difficulties facing expatriates in such situations have given rise to commercial offices trading in residence permits according to one source. These offices get KD400 to KD500 for making residence permits, the source said. Many expatriates are obliged to pay these amounts in order to bring their children in from outside or to maintain their residence permits, the source went on, adding that he hoped the Interior Ministry will take the required actions to solve this problem.

## Saudi Arabia

### Foreign Minister Comments on Iran, 'Uprising'

*LD1003092989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2330 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Riyadh, 9 Mar (SPA)—His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, has indicated that the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, has repeatedly stated and explained, in a way that leaves no room for doubt, that the Kingdom believes that international relations between our country and all the states, particularly Islamic states, should be good.

In an interview with AL-YAMAMAH magazine, published yesterday, his royal highness said that there is nothing in the Kingdom's policy to prevent the improvement of its relations with any state, especially Iran. He added that the custodian of the two holy mosques reiterates this on every occasion and that it is he who represents the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's true position.

His Royal Highness also hailed the importance of the 11th conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers to be held in Riyadh next Monday. He expressed his hope that the conference would be able, in view of the eruptions of international tension, to make a new start and bring new determination to promoting the concept of Muslim solidarity in every way.

In the interview, his royal highness discussed developments in the Iran-Iraq war, saying: "The GCC and ICO states strongly support the UN efforts and the endeavors of the UN secretary general to implement Resolution 598." He noted the historical relations among the states of the region and between the two warring sides, Iraq and Iran; the prospects for future cooperation between them; and the importance of regional security and stability. He added: these are some of the most important factors enabling this region, and others, to serve Islamic causes, particularly cooperation among Islamic states.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal also said that the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international conference is supported by the Arabs in general and by Palestinians and the independent Palestinian state in particular.

He warned Israel against continuing the violent practices in its attempt to quell the Palestinian popular uprising and said: "This cannot continue without becoming worse in the future."

His royal highness also spoke about the Palestinian question and said that the Palestinian people would not accept occupation but would accept their legitimate rights, indicating that the intifadah [uprising] had brought about a movement in the international arena that would, God willing, achieve Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic objectives.

He described the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue as a positive step, saying: "The United States is a permanent member of the Security Council and a superpower, and consequently its responsibilities in resolving international conflicts and preserving international peace are great and huge responsibilities."

His royal highness the foreign minister also hailed the Afghan mujahidin's struggle, expressing the hope that after reaching this stage the Afghan people would now be able to struggle for peace and reconstruction with the same ability and strength they showed in liberating their country.

### Recognition of Mujahidin Government Supported

*LD1003094189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0410 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 10 Mar, SPA—The majority of Saudi newspapers have devoted their commentaries to the Kingdom's decision officially to recognize the government of the Afghan mujahidin chosen by the Muslim Afghan people. They stressed that this recognition came without any pressure, and that it stems from the belief of the leadership of this faithful country in the necessity of sincerely standing on the side of the Afghan mujahidin.

The Saudi newspapers appealed to Arab and Islamic countries to continue their support for the heroes of the Afghan jihad, and called on them to recognize the Afghan Government, which has been chosen by the sons of the Muslim Afghan people to replace the hireling communist government.

AL-'UKAZ newspaper said under the title "The Valuable Recognition of the Afghan Government" by the Kingdom—which was the first country to recognize this government—that recognition is considered a full commitment to Afghanistan's noble struggle to achieve great victories in defense of Islam and to consecrate its presence on a land that hosted Islam at an early time. [passage omitted]

The newspaper indicated that the Kingdom will continue its efforts and meetings and will make good use of its relations with the countries of the world to obtain support and backing for the Afghan people, government, and struggle, and for the legitimacy of its holy war. [passage omitted]

## United Arab Emirates

### Iranian Delegation Arrives for Talks 6 Mar

*LD0603101889 Tehran IRNA in English 1008 GMT 6 Mar 89*

[Text] Teheran March 6, IRNA—Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, head of the Islamic Propagation Organization arrived in the United Arab Emirates Monday [6 March] at the head of a delegation to discuss the conflict over The Satanic Verses.

He was welcomed by officials of the Foreign and Islamic Affairs Ministries and Iranian diplomats.

Ayatollah Jannati, also a member of the Council of Guardians, will hold talks with President and ruler of Abu Dhabi Shaykh Zayed ibn Sultan al-Nuhayyan on the sacriligious novel by British author Salman Rushdie, which has grossly offended Muslims.

### Ayatollah on 'Satanic Verses'

*LD0703220689 Tehran IRNA in English 1857 GMT 7 Mar 89*

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—"The Satanic Verses" rings an alarm for the Muslim world, said Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, warning the ummah of grave consequences if they do not spring to the defence of Islam and God's last prophet, Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Speaking to reporters Monday night in Abu Dhabi, the head of the Islamic Propagation Organisation (IPO) said divine laws cannot be altered and hence Imam Khomeyni's fatwah [edict] against Salman Rushdie is not changeable, and has been confirmed and seconded by all Muslim 'ulema.

All five schools of Islamic jurisprudence are unanimous on death penalty for apostasy, and the leader of the Islamic revolution's just decree against the Indian-born British apostate was widely acclaimed.

"Thousands of Muslims around the globe are ready to carry out the fatwah, and we expect those governments who have supported Rushdie to realise their error and surrender him to justice," said the ayatollah.

While in the United Arab Emirates where he handed President Khamene'i's message to President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The message deals with global arrogance's plot to publish the blasphemous book.

"'Ulema and Muslim governments should not forget that holy Al-Quds and Palestine are still in the hands of Islam's enemies because of their silence, and this silence will continue to spill the blood of Palestinian Muslim youth," Ayatollah Jannati warned.

On the forthcoming foreign ministers session of the organisation of the Islamic conference in Riyadh, Jannati said Iran will participate in the session.

Asked whether Iran's distance from the West means a tilt towards the East in view of the current developments, Jannati rejected the idea and said Iran is ready to have good relations with any country which shows mutual respect and does not pressure the Islamic revolution.

Jannati is currently in Muscat where he had held talks with Awqaf, justice ministers and mufti of Oman.

### Iranian Amabassador Conveys Velayati Message

*JN0503131689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Mar 89*

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 5 Mar (WAKH)—Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, has received a written message from Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

WAM said that the message concerns topics on the agenda of the ICO foreign ministers' conference, which is scheduled to be held in Riyadh on 13 March, and ways to coordinate positions among the Islamic countries in the interest of the Islamic causes.

The message was conveyed by Mostafa Haeri-Fumani, the Iranian ambassador to the UAE, during a meeting here today with Rashid 'Abdallah. [passage omitted]

### Visiting Omani Minister Meets Economy Minister

*JN0703171889 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 7 Mar 89*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 7 (GNA)—UAE Economy and Trade Minister Sayf al-Jarwan discussed cooperation today with Omani Trade and Industry Minister Salim ibn 'Abdallah al-Ghazali.

Al-Jarwan said after the meeting they had identical views on issues discussed and noted bilateral trade had greatly developed.

Al-Ghazali, who arrived earlier in the day, also had talks with UAE Minister of State for Financial and Industrial Affairs Ahmad Hamid al-Ta'ir.

They covered ways to boost economic and industrial cooperatiuon and encourage private sectors to enter joint investment ventures.

### Meets Finance Minister

*JN0803185089 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 8 Mar 89*

[Text] Dubayy, March 8 (GNA)—United Arab Emirates Finance and Industry Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Rashid Al Maktum received today Omani Trade and Industry minister Salim 'Abdallah al-Ghazali.

They discussed economic and trade relations between the UAE and Oman as part of consultations among the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states with the aim of boosting joint action.

Minister of State for Financial and Industrial Affairs Ahmad al-Ta'ir was present at the meeting.

### Minister Returns From Riyadh GCC Meetings

*JN0703170789 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 7 Mar 89*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 7 (GNA)—UAE State Minister for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah returned home from Riyadh today after taking part in the 30th session of the GCC ministerial council, which concluded in the Saudi capital today.

### Technical Talks on UN 598 End in New York

*JN0903204889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] United Nations, 9 Mar (INA)—The second and final session of technical talks between an Iraqi delegation and Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's representative on the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations, was held at the UN headquarters in New York today.

A UN spokesman said that in the two meetings, of which the first began yesterday, discussion centered on preparing for the next round of direct talks between Iraq and Iran scheduled to be held in New York later this month on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 calling for a comprehensive end to the Iraq-Iran war. The spokesman pointed out that issues related to the agenda of the next round of direct talks were also discussed.

Eliasson met with an Iranian delegation last week for the same purpose.

### INA Commentator Reacts to Larijani Statements

*JN0903113889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Mar (INA)—Commenting on statements made on 7 March by Mohammad Javad Larijani, Iranian deputy foreign minister, the INA international affairs commentator has said that Iran has begun to set preconditions for resuming peace negotiations with Iraq. The commentator added that these preconditions are in complete contradiction with UN Security Council Resolution No 598 and with the 8 August 1988 cease-fire agreement initiating direct negotiations to implement the articles of the resolution.

The INA commentator added that Iraq, which has confirmed by words and deeds that it is determined to abide strictly by UN Security Council Resolution No 598, is not at all surprised by the conflicting Iranian signals caused by the various centers of political decisionmaking in Iran. He said Iraq has explained its clear and consistent position on the international resolution and has also shown its readiness to implement it according to the sequence of its articles, or all at once, in order to achieve a comprehensive, lasting, and just peace between the two countries. Moreover, Iraq, for humanitarian reasons, has affirmed its immediate readiness for a complete, comprehensive exchange of POW's after ending hostilities, in accordance with the Geneva Convention regardless, of the outcome of the Iraq-Iran negotiations, he added.

The INA international affairs commentator pointed out that Iran continues to issue hollow statements through several officials regarding Resolution 598 in a way that serves its own devious intentions and is also a result of the power struggle inside the Iranian regime, which gives rise to irresponsible maneuvers and statements. The commentator said Larijani's recent statements fall within this category. Larijani had claimed that Iraqi ships would not be able to sail in the Shatt Al-'Arab until the Iraqi Army had fully withdrawn from Iranian territory. This statement confirms the premeditated Iranian intention to obstruct the negotiations scheduled to resume later according to official UN sources, the commentator said.

Concluding his commentary, the INA writer asserted that Iran will be held solely responsible for the continuation of the no-war, no-peace situation, which Iraq rejects on humanitarian and principled grounds and out of commitment to international opinion expressed by Resolution 598. He added that Iraq calls on the international community to pressure the Iranian regime to implement the international resolution. And he called on nations to expose both the political maneuvers and the twisted methods used by the Tehran rulers to obstruct negotiations, which arise from the regime's domestic crises and also the military, political, economic, and social effects of the war on Iran.

## Arens Leaves for U.S. for 'Meeting With Friends'

*TA1003065789 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Mar 89 pp 1, 6*

[Report by Washington-based correspondent Erol Guiney and Hayim Shibi]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, who left for his U.S. visit last night, said before his departure: "I am leaving for a meeting with friends."

Jerusalem is making a deliberate effort to lower the level of expectations from Arens' visit and to describe it as a visit in preparation for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's trip to Washington in early April.

The Foreign Ministry believes that the new administration does not hope to make "dramatic leaps," but will exert pressure to "improve the atmosphere in the territories in order to speed up the negotiations."

Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, who returned from Washington, told Arens that at present the Americans want "a momentum for a dialogue," and no more than that.

Sources close to Arens said: "In his meetings with U.S. Administration leaders, Arens will outline the framework: what Israel is prepared to do, and what it flatly opposes. Yes to direct negotiations, but only for the interim stage; no to negotiations with the PLO.

Yesterday's Foreign Ministry statement said: "The inclination is toward reaching an understanding and progressing toward a coordination of positions between Israel and the United States." [passage omitted]

## Peres Urges Talks With Palestinians 'As They Are'

*TA1003110989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Mar 89 pp 1, 22*

[Report by Andy Goldberg and Dan Petreanu]

[Excerpt] Vice President Shim'on Peres yesterday took a significant step towards endorsing talks with the PLO.

He said that Israel must talk to the Palestinians "as they are—as they are organized." He was reacting to the report of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies released this week, which concluded that Israel would eventually be forced to negotiate with the PLO or with PLO appointees.

The report also concluded that Israel must not rule out a Palestinian state in the territories after a 10-15 year transition period of "mutual confidence-building."

Peres said "the primary conclusions of the report are correct." He praised it as "an intelligent analysis by professional, thinking people trying to grapple with a new situation.

"The problem is that we have blind people in this country, who hold on to their past positions because they think that nothing has changed in the region, which is, of course, not true. The facts have changed and the report takes those changes into account. Without a Jordanian presence, we have to talk to the Palestinians the way they are," Peres said.

Peres was speaking to reporters at a memorial ceremony commemorating the 35 victims of the Coastal Road bus attack 11 years ago.

Sources in Peres's bureau told THE JERUSALEM POST that Peres has "very specific ideas about how to react to the rapid changes of the past several months" in the region, but wants to wait until Prime Minsiter Shamir returns from his planned visit to the U.S. in April "before saying more explicitly what is on his mind." The sources said Peres wants to avoid creating the impression that he is "interfering" with a potential Shamir initiative.

"I believe the solution, in the end, will be federal or confederative (between the Palestinians and Jordan)," said Peres. "But in the absence of a Jordanian partner, we must talk to the Palestinians."

Peres said Israel must strive towards a solution "whose beginning is talking and whose end is an answer both to Israel's security concerns and the Palestinians' expectations." [passage omitted]

## U.S. Fears Pressing PLO on Terror Issue

*TA0903133289 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 9 Mar 89 p 2*

[Commentary by Alex Fishman]

[Text] The U.S. State Department's official and binding definition of terror is absolutely clear: Terror is political violence premeditatively aimed against nonmilitary targets and carried out by nationalist elements that are not states or covert agents of states. The U.S. Defense Department has its own definition: Terror is basically a tactical form of political struggle with political goals. The Defense Department stresses the issue of terror as tactics.

Whichever way you turn either definition, the events on our northern border fit them precisely. This has not, however, prevented the United States from adhering to the version that there is no justification for stopping negotiations with the PLO. The United States is confused not only in relation to terror on our northern border, but also when they themselves are concerned. They insist on terming the 1983 attack on the Marine Corps headquarters in Beirut as terror. A Marine Corps headquarters is clearly a military target. President Reagan declared the contras to be freedom fighters. Are their acts considered terror?

The leaflets found on the bodies of the terrorists killed in the north clearly state that their aim was to hit civilian targets in the territory of Israel. The argument that they operated in a military area, namely the security zone, is invalid in this case. As far as international legitimacy is concerned, Palestinian terror within the boundaries of Israel is tolerable. It becomes intolerable when it is carried out on international soil. The Lebanese border belongs to this gray area that world public opinion can swallow, and behind which the State Department can find refuge.

The United States has not entered a dialogue with 'Arafat believing him to be one of the righteous of the nations. Their definitions will not spoil the political goals behind dialogue with him. The United States realizes that too much pressure on 'Arafat might split the PLO and damage his status in facing the more activist factions of Hawatimah and Habash. The United States is walking a tightrope for fear of losing a partner for negotiations.

## Shamir Rejection of Report on Conflict Decried

*TA0903144189 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Mar 89 pp 1, 7*

[Editorial: "Occupation Is a Strategic Impediment"]

[Text] At the news conference held by Aharon Yariv, former head of the Israeli army's military intelligence service and current director of Tel Aviv University's Center for Strategic Studies, Yariv explained that there is no room for evasion or procrastination in talking with the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, the PLO. This statement was made when Yariv was publicly announcing that the center he heads issued a report that ultimately calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state. Yariv affirmed that this state will not constitute a threat to Israel's security.

The base of support for legitimate Palestinian rights, including the Palestinian people's right to set up their independent state, is expanding daily, so much so that the Palestinian problem is now at the forefront of controversial international problems. Consequently, the attention of the world's countries has been drawn to the justness of the Palestinian people's demands to regain their national rights.

Although the base of support in Israel for holding talks with the PLO has expanded, and now includes blocs and parties in the Israeli Knesset as well as a large number of Israeli peace movements and some Israeli ministers who have called for direct or indirect negotiations with the PLO, Shamir still persists in ignoring or downplaying the importance of these Israeli voices. He went so far as to describe the "Peace Now" movement as "less than marginal."

In the face of the bold Palestinian movement toward peace, which is backed internationally and locally, the Israeli Government, represented by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, lacks the courage and boldness to confront the facts and to acknowledge, as mentioned in the Center for Strategic Studies report, that continued occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip constitutes a strategic impediment to peace rather than a strategic gain for Israel.

The fact that peace is made with enemies makes it inevitable for Israel, either sooner or later, to sit at the negotiating table with the PLO, as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, within the international conference framework and with the participation of the Security Council's permanent member states, so that ironclad guarantees would be obtained by all the parties to the conflict. Procrastination and continued Israeli rejection increase the suffering of all the region's nations, and this rejection is likely to waste an irreplaceable opportunity for achieving peace in the Middle East.

## PLO Making Monthly Payments to Palestinians

*TA1003110089 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 10 Mar 89 p 1*

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—The PLO has started making monthly payments to almost 20,000 Palestinian employees in Judaea and Samaria, Israeli and Palestinian sources said yesterday. They said the PLO had so far deposited sums equivalent to five months' salary in accounts at the Arab Bank in Amman for each of the workers. The Palestinians, formerly salaried by Jordan, were sending relatives to Jordan to collect the money.

Military sources meanwhile said the army handed over control of parts of Gaza city and some refugee camps to the paramilitary border police, a force deployed primarily in Arab areas. "It's a partial handover. It means that soldiers in certain places will be withdrawn from Gaza," a military source said. The Judaea and Samaria employees, mostly teachers but also health officials, judges, lawyers and administrators, receive their main salary from Israel. Until King Husayn severed ties with the West Bank last July, Jordan used to pay them between 30 and 300 dinars (then 90 to 900 dollars). The dinar has since lost nearly 50 percent of its value against the dollar, making the salaries paid offshore to the employees less significant. The sources said the government had made no attempt to stop the payments, although it severely restricts the amount of money Palestinians may carry from Jordan. Officials have expressed concern that the PLO might use payments to try to exert political control over Civil Administration employees to further the intifadah [uprising]. PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat vowed last August to make up for the payments terminated by Jordan. The PLO-backed unified leadership of the uprising has called on many Civil Administration employees to resign. But with the exception of a mass walkout by hundreds of policemen last year, the calls have mostly gone unheeded. Under the new procedure established by

the PLO, employees can send relatives to collect the money with a certificate from a Moslem religious judge or a Chamber of Commerce to prove their entitlement, the sources said. [passage omitted]

### Civil Administration Head Meets Palestinians

*TA0903131689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the Civil Administration, has confirmed reports that he met this week with Palestinian figures, including one of the heads of the popular committees in Judaea and Samaria. The meetings were routine and have absolutely no special importance, Gen Erez stressed. Our correspondent 'Ido Shargil reports:

Gen Erez met this week with Palestinian figures in the territories and East Jerusalem. Official sources in the Civil Administration said the meetings are part of the regular meetings Gen Erez holds with personalities in the territories. Among those Gen Erez met was agronomist Dr Jad Ishaq of Bayt Sahur, whose name has been mentioned as a leader of the popular committees in his village and who for that reason was under administrative detention. Gen Erez also met with Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, a Ramallah resident and chairman of the Palestinian Journalists Association, as well as other leading Palestinians.

The atmosphere in the talks, which are part of the policy of maintaining contacts with the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria, was described as positive.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 9 March in a report by Mikhal Sela' on page 12 adds: "Aluf [Maj Gen] Matan Vilna'i, head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] manpower branch, met yesterday with Dr Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi, a notable Gaza leftist, to discuss the situation in the territories and ways to end the uprising. "I told him that the only way to calm the uprising is to recognize the Palestinians' right to an independent state," said 'Abd al-Shafi. "Vilna'i said Israel could not respond to anything as long as the violence goes on. But I told him that what the Palestinians were doing is not violence, it's only a symbolic expression of their distress."]

### Further on Meeting

*TA1003113389 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 Mar 89 p 2*

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpts] Brigadier General Shay Erez, the head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria, met yesterday in Nabulus with a large group of representatives of the various political streams, especially PLO supporters, in the first meeting of its kind in many years. [passage omitted]

Israeli sources said that Erez avoided giving any promises and merely came to hear the views of the inhabitants following the serious incidents in Nabulus and the extended curfew there. [passage omitted]

Palestinian public figures who participated in the meeting said that the Civil Administration head promised to reopen schools in the middle of next week. He also asked to be given lists of administrative detainees who the Nabulus inhabitants believe were unjustly punished. Dr Hatim Abu Ghazalah, considered an 'Arafat supporter, said Brig Gen Erez should meet with the new generation, the intifadah [uprising] generation, and not the aging leadership, because the young generation does not heed the veteran leadership. Other speakers supported this view and called on Erez to confer with families whose sons were killed or whose homes were demolished, in order to get a genuine idea of the mood among the Palestinians.

Hikmat al-Masri, the uncrowned leader of Nabulus, said that it is not up to Israel to choose Palestinian leaders and that they all believe that the PLO is their representative. Ghassan al-Shak'ah', a PLO supporter, said that the Palestinians cannot be divided and the residents of the territories cannot ignore the suffering of their brethren in Lebanon.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 10 March adds that "Brig Gen Erez is promising to compensate innocent Arab inhabitants whose homes were damaged during the demolition of houses belonging to people suspected of killing reserve soldier Binyamin Meisner."]

### Arab Journalist on Meeting

*JN0903145089 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[From the "With the Midday Events" program]

[Text] Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of Judea and Samaria Civil Administration, continues his meetings with Palestinian figures. Among these figures was Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, dean of Arab journalists in the West Bank. Colleague Ibrahim Shahid telephones Mr Abu 'Ayyash:

[Begin recording] [Shahid] Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, head of the Arab journalists union, you are among the persons who recently met with Shay Erez, head of the Civil Administration. What do such meetings discuss?

[Abu 'Ayyash] Brig Gen Shay Erez poses questions and listens to opinions about the general political situation in the occupied territories and to ideas on peaceful solutions. Certainly, we explained to the brigadier the Palestinian people's feelings and said that the establishment of peace in the region must depend on negotiations between the PLO and the Israeli Government within an international conference to find a formula to solve the

Middle East crisis. The Civil Administration head focused on living conditions. We explained what is going on in the occupied territories and that the continuation of the harsh Israeli measures will not lead to a solution to the Palestine question.

[Shahid] Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, do you view such meetings between West Bank and Gaza figures on the one hand and Civil Administration heads and high-level Israeli officials on the other as a beginning for contacts and talks between the Palestinians and Israelis or as a preparation for direct negotiations?

[Abu 'Ayyash] I hope they are a preparation for direct negotiations between the PLO and the Israeli Government. I believe this may lead to such negotiations. This is although the Israeli stand is clear and rejects any dialogue with the PLO. However, in these meetings we have always emphasized this fact.

[Shahid] Do you believe such meetings enjoy the blessing of the PLO abroad?

[Abu 'Ayyash] We only come at the request of the Civil Administration. We have to go when we are invited. [end recording]

## Bayt Sahur's Ishaq on Meeting

*JN0903194089 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[From "With the Events" Program]

[Text] We move to our next topic, which is related to Dr Jad Ishaq, who was reported to have met with Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the Civil Administration. He has contacted us to explain his views. We leave the rest of the talk to our colleague, Ibrahim Shahid.

[Begin recording] [Shahid] Dr Jad Ishaq, from Bayt Sahur: Good evening.

[Ishaq] Yes. Welcome; good evening.

[Shahid] We have learned that you met recently with Brig Gen Erez, head of the Civil Administration. Let us ask you first about the nature of this meeting?

[Ishaq] Firstly, I was summoned to meet with the head of the Civil Administration. Like others, we answered this summons. The conversation revolved around topics of the hour, such as education and economic affairs, the peace process, the Israeli-Palestinian meetings, and other topics.

[Shahid] Dr Jad, it was reported today in some newspapers that in addition to the fact that you were under administrative detention for a period of time...

[Ishaq, interrupting] Yes.

[Shahid] You are a member of the popular committees in the area. How do you view this description, and the meeting with officials?

[Ishaq] Actually, I was summoned in my personal capacity—no more, no less—to meet with the head of the Civil Administration. I heard today, as was reported in the radio, that my name was connected to...

[Shahid, interrupting] It was reported in the radio citing a Hebrew newspaper.

[Ishaq] Yes. I am astonished by this. I do not know from where this information was obtained. In my opinion, every journalist must confirm the truth of any report before it is published. As you know, popular committees are banned and membership in such committees exposes one to a punishment of up to 10 years imprisonment. Therefore, I deplore the fact that the press mentioned my name as head of the popular committees in Bayt Sahur in that simple manner. They have made themselves the judge, jury, and executioner.

[Shahid] Then, you deny membership in popular committees?

[Ishaq] I have answered this question.

[Shahid] Thank you, Dr Jad Ishaq.

[Ishaq] You are welcome; thank you. [end recording]

## Gaza Civil Administration Head Meets With Hamas

*TA0903185089 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Brigadier General Arye Ramot, head of the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip, met today with representatives of several refugee camps in the area. The participants included activists of the popular committees; the Al-Shabibah youth movement; and Hamas, the Islamic resistance movement. Some of them have been arrested in the past for security felonies or have been held in administrative detention.

Yoni Ben-Menahem, a correspondent for Israel Television's Arabic program, reports that the possibilities of reducing friction between the army and the inhabitants of the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip were discussed in the meeting. Gen Ramot said that if quiet were restored in the camps, the Israeli army would remove its troops from them. In the past few days the head of the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip has been meeting with representatives of all the political movements there.

**Islamic Leader, Minister on Islamic Movement**
*JN0903210789 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[From the "With the Events" Program]

[Excerpts] Minister of State Ehud Olmert, who is charged with Arab citizens' affairs, today visited the Triangle villages. Our correspondent Bassam Jabir talks to us about the visit.

[Begin recording] [Jabir] The visit by Minister Ehud Olmert to Al-Tirah came at the invitation of the Al-Tirah branch of the National Council for the Prevention of Road Accidents branch in Al-Tirah. The invitation was extended to him to participate in the day of safety on roads, which was held today in Al-Tirah. Minister Olmert talked about the need to endeavor to prevent road accidents. However, he found himself faced with a number of subjects and issues of a regional and national political nature. Shaykh Ghalib Matar, leader of the Islamic Movement in Al-Tirah, appealed to the minister to allow him to explain that the Islamic Movement is not, as described by certain voices in Israeli society, an extremist movement.

[Shaykh Matar] The Islamic Movement is a movement that calls on people to return to the sources of religion. It is not an extreme movement, as they say, but a movement that calls for the return of people to the correct origins of their religion. There are some who say that the Islamic Movement in this country is an extreme movement, which must be banned and which must not be allowed to be established or to act. We say to all these people that the Islamic Movement in the Arab community is like the religious Jewish parties in the Jewish community. Therefore, we have heard no voices that call for banning the religious parties, which, from our viewpoint as Muslims, are extreme parties. We belong to the religion of forgiveness and joint action. At the same time, it is the religion that protects the Arab Islamic society from deserting the sources of its religion and way of life, which it practiced for many years throughout history.

[Jabir] Ghalib Matar, practically, you deny all the voices that say that the Islamic Movement is an extreme movement and that they must be aware of it.

[Matar] Indeed. I absolutely deny all these sayings. The Islamic Movement is not new on the arena of the Arab Islamic community in this state. There is definite proof that it carried out many projects and worked to make people return to the correct path. It fights, with full strength, corruption and vice in the society which came to us—as imports—from here and there. We fight alcohol and the indecent exposure of women. We endeavor to establish a cohesive society that supports right and rejects all forms of wrongdoing.

[Jabir] Also, Tariq 'Abd al-Hayy, head of the Al-Tirah Local Council, spoke with the same spirit and said that any act to ban the Islamic Movement in the country will benefit neither the state nor Arab citizens, according to the head of the Al-Tirah Local Council.

Minister Olmert said that the Islamic Movement threatens, in the first place, the Arab citizens themselves. [passage omitted]

[Jabir] The minister added: We very much respect the traditions and beliefs of others since the movement to which I belong is known for its deep respect for Jewish beliefs and traditions. On the same basis, it respects the beliefs and traditions of other peoples and religions. However, from the political viewpoint, the Islamic Movement, according to Ehud Olmert, is a phenomenon that threatens the firm relations that we know among all citizens. Therefore, it is not accepted to me. [passage omitted] [end recording]

**Chamber of Commerce Set Up With Yugoslavia**
*TA0903153889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] An Israeli-Yugoslav chamber of commerce was set up in Israel today. Its founders hope the volume of trade between the two countries will rise by several dozen percent this year. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik points out that Israel's exports to Yugoslavia consist mainly of food products, chemicals, and textiles, while its purchases from Yugoslavia consist of wood, paper and paper products, and food.

**New Rubber Bullets 'More Efficient and Dangerous'**
*TA1003112389 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 10 Mar 89 p 7*

[Report by Ran Levi]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The rubber bullets used by the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] to shoot at rioters in the territories are produced by I.B., the owner of a small metal workshop in Jerusalem's industrial zone. [passage omitted]

The KOL HA'IR weekly, which published the report today, claims that the rubber bullets manufactured by the Jerusalem plant have recently been substantially improved. The previous bullets were made up of small pieces of metal covered by a thick layer of black rubber. They have been replaced by heavier steel bullets covered by a thin layer of hard plastic. The new rubber bullets are considered much more efficient and dangerous. The IDF requested that the name of the manufacturer be withheld to protect him from harm by Arab elements. [passage omitted]

## Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

### 2 Reported Killed, 3 Wounded

*TA0903163089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Two people were killed and three wounded today in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a young man was shot in Gaza's Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood after he attacked a soldier with a broken bottle. The assailant was badly wounded and was taken to Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer where he died of his wounds. Two other people were wounded in Al-Shaja'iyah and a third in Khan Yunus, when soldiers opened fire to disperse riots.

AFP reports from Jerusalem that a young man was electrocuted in the village of Khirbat al-Misbah near Ramallah when, at soldiers' orders, he climbed an electricity pole to remove a PLO flag.

Fifteen youngsters suspected of throwing stones and taking part in riots were arrested today in Jerusalem's Sawwanah neighborhood, near the Mount of Olives. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that a police helicopter provided air cover.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 9 March reports that "Some 30 young men have been arrested so far in 'Isawiyah near Jerusalem under the curfew, which has been in effect in the village for the 2d consecutive day."]

### 12 Wounded in Further Unrest

*TA0903173989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Two inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip were killed and 12 wounded today. The IDF knows about one killed and three casualties. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a youth was shot in the Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood when he attacked a soldier with a broken bottle. The attacker was seriously wounded and transferred to Tel Hashomer Hospital where he died of his wounds. Three inhabitants of Al-Shaja'iyah were wounded when a riot was being dispersed. Gaza residents said that residents of the Al-Shati' refugee camp, Jabalyah, and Khan Yunus were also wounded today.

Residents of the village of Khirbat al-Misbah near Ramallah reported that a local youth was electrocuted after he was forced to climb up an electricity pylon to take down a PLO flag. The IDF Central Command spokesman said Israeli soldiers were not stationed in the village. Judaea and Samaria residents also reported that five people were shot by IDF gunfire, one in the village of Silwad, two in Qabatiyah, and two in the Janin refugee camp. Curfews continue in several locations in the territories.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 9 March adds: "The IDF today evacuated a permanent IDF position in the Al-Shati' camp after imposing a curfew there. One of the inhabitants was shot and wounded during unrest. The decision to evacuate the post derives from a change in routine security in the area and a decision to transfer responsibilities to the Border Police."]

### Gaza Strike Almost Total

*TA1003110189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] The general strike is manifest throughout almost the entire Gaza Strip, with hardly any local vehicles traveling along the traffic axes. The inhabitants have locked themselves indoors. This morning the security forces imposed a curfew on the Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood of Gaza, in addition to the ones previously imposed on the Jabalyah, Al-Shati', and Shabura neighborhood. Beefed up security forces cleared barricades along several roads this morning. There have as yet been no reports of casualties in the Gaza Strip. This is reported by our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv.

### Rooms in Homes Destroyed

*TA1003110489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] Security authorities in Gaza last night destroyed rooms in the homes of three residents of the Khan Yunus refugee camp. The three are suspected of attacks on local residents cooperating with the authorities.

### Reservist Jailed

*TA1003151989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] Reserve Sergeant Rami Hason was given a 28-day prison term today for refusing service in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Our military correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that this will be Hason's 3d prison term on similar charges.

Nine reserve soldiers are presently imprisoned for refusing service beyond the Green Line.

### King Husayn Leaves for The Hague Conference

*JN1003124089 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] His majesty the king left Amman for the Netherlands today to attend the environment conference in The Hague. The conference is expected to agree a declaration on the protection of the environment. [sentence as heard]

His majesty will meet during the visit with a number of world leaders attending the conference. Upon departure from Amman today, his majesty was bidden farewell by his royal highness the crown prince, His Royal Highness Prince Faysal ibn al-Husayn, and high-ranking officials. His majesty is accompanied by the prime minister, Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i, and the chief of the royal court, Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir.

### King Husayn Sends Congratulations to Al-Asad

*JN0703202289 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 7 Mar 89*

[Text] His majesty the king has sent a cable to the Syrian President Mr Hafiz al-Asad congratulating him in his own name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on the national day of Syria. His majesty wished President al-Asad health and progress and happiness and the brotherly Syrian people further progress and prosperity.

### UK's Waldegrave on Territories' Occupation

*JN1003114889 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Mar 89 pp 15, 18*

[By Layla Dib]

[Text] William Waldegrave, British minister of state at the Foreign Office and official in charge of Middle East affairs, said that the situation in the occupied Arab territories is neither just nor acceptable. A people has determined its national aspirations, and Israel has to accept them, he said.

In an interview with AL-DUSTUR before leaving Amman, Waldegrave said that his visit to Nabulus, which was suffering under total curfew, was something he neither expected nor imagined possible. The inhabitants were prevented from leaving their houses and even from reaching their windows, he explained.

The British minister said that there are many Israelis who have become convinced that the establishment of the Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza is inevitable. Many people, he said, are expressing their views, especially those who are well aware of the military facts—namely the military, intelligence and secret service personnel, and the strategists.

The military facts, he explained, have two aspects: First, Israel is very strong and can defend itself without the West Bank. Second, the Israelis know they cannot keep the situation in the occupied territories under control indefinitely.

He added: With the passage of time, the facts will prevail in Israel, but some leaders believe that the uprising will come to an end by itself. "I must say very honestly that they are mistaken, and they are annoyed by the comparison of their situation with ending colonialism," he said.

He added: There is something that everybody has learned: When people feel national unity and national aspirations, no force can stop this, and no state can stop it without being tougher.

Asked about U.S. sluggishness in defining a new Middle East policy, Waldegrave said it is unfair to expect anything quickly. The new administration has been in office for only a very short time and has not yet been able to hold consultations with all concerned parties.

During his talks with the U.S. ambassador in Amman, he said, they agreed that U.S. policy is developing.

On Britain's role, he added: We are certain that there is currently a real peace opportunity. It is better for the Americans to become convinced that the situation is now appropriate for formulating a new policy. This is better than pressing a superpower, which is impossible.

He said that the United States should place the Middle East at the top of its list of priorities.

### Al-Rifa'i Confers With PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas

*JN0703131589 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 7 Mar 89*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i received in his office today Mr Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, who arrived in Amman last night as an envoy of PLO Chairman Mr Yasir 'Arafat. Mr 'Abbas briefed the prime minister on the outcome of talks and contacts Mr 'Arafat held in Cairo recently with the Soviet Foreign Minister Mr Eduard Shevardnadze and senior Egyptian officials.

### 'Abbas Ends Visit, Departs

*JN0903133689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, left Amman this morning following a 3-day visit to the kingdom during which he conveyed a message to His Majesty King Husayn from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The message concerns recent Palestinian political discussions and international developments in the Palestine issue. 'Abbas also met with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and several senior officials.

## Foreign Minister Interviewed on Peace Prospects

*JN0503184689 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic*
*4 Mar 89 p 27*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim by Sawsan Abu Husayn in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Abu Husayn] Can the Arab, U.S., and Palestinian political discussions achieve Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories?

[Al-Qasim] This dialogue is a basic factor leading to a better understanding of Palestinian rights by the U.S. Administration. It is also designed to alleviate concerns and fears of some parties regarding the recognition of these legitimate rights, which they fear may undermine Israel's security. We regard these concerns as Israeli paranoia more than anthing else. I wonder: Why does Israel fear a Palestinian state, given the fact that it takes 3 minutes to fly from any Israeli airport to Amman? We want to eliminate these fears completely. This can only be achieved to the extent that Israel is able to coexist peacefully. On this premise, we call for taking advantage of the current peace opportunities, which are based on withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in return for Israel's right to live in security and peace, just as other states. Moreover, as Arabs, we agree on achieving a just peace. In other words, the Arabs agree on a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international conference to be attended by Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine. We will not allow the division of such a solution, and there will be no other option. Moreover, fraternal Egypt should also participate in the peace process through the international conference that we expect to take place.

[Abu Husayn] Are there any new signs that the international conference will be convened this year?

[Al-Qasim] We, as Arab states concerned with bringing peace, will continue to prompt the influential states to carry out their duty, particularly those that issued the two Security Council resolutions, as well as other states that have a strong relationship with the occupying power. [Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard] Shevardnadze visited us a few days ago on his tour of the region. The Jordanians and Soviets are in agreement that the best way to attain a just settlement of the Middle East problem, based on the principles and implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, is by holding an international conference for peace to be attended by the five permanent Security Council member states. We welcome the Soviet position, which backs and supports Arab rights, rejects occupation, and continues to seek a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestine question and to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict once the Arab position is unified and complete. The Soviet Union was demanding that the Arabs agree on a unified position. [passage omitted]

[Abu Husayn] What has Jordan offered to support the intifadah [uprising]?

[Al-Qasim] In all our meetings and talks with any visitor to Jordan, we stress the need daily to extend every means of support to the intifadah in addition to our own support. In addition, Jordan is a member of the Arab League's ministerial committee to support the intifadah. Our contacts with the various parties—whether Europe, the United States, or the Soviet Union—constantly stress the need to extend everything possible to the intifadah.

[Abu Husayn] A few weeks ago, it was announced that a meeting will be held between King Husayn and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. So far, this meeting has not taken place. Will there be a meeting soon?

[Al-Qasim] His Majesty King Husayn devotes all of his attention to the Palestine question. Therefore, coordination and consultations are continuous between us to promote Palestinian rights and how to attain them. We also meet continuously with the PLO brothers to brief them on all developments and plans. I met with Yasir 'Arafat 2 weeks ago, and he is fully aware of the extent of Jordan's support for the PLO. Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has the right to hold consultations with his majesty the king any time he wishes, and is always welcome. [passage omitted]

### 'Awn Says Syria 'Stalling' Efforts for Solution

*NC0903161489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has accused Syria of stalling Arab efforts to end Lebanon's crisis and pledged to use force, if necessary, to impose order and the state's authority in Lebanon.

Interviewed by REUTER and VISNEWS, 'Awn said Syria is displeased with the results achieved by the Arab committee and, consequently, is attempting to hamper its work. He noted that Syria does not want this committee to succeed because that country wants to remain the only party in control of Lebanon and, as a result, does not want any other party to participate in the efforts to resolve the crisis. 'Awn expressed his belief that the committee's efforts will stumble, but noted: Even if the committee's efforts do not lead to a solution, we cannot deny the benefits of its work on the ground as long as our case has become clear in the minds of the Arabs. This will help in the future to bring about another form of solution if this initiative does not succeed.

General 'Awn also accused Syria of undermining the Army's unity by creating Al-Khatib as well as new equations. However, he remarked that, despite the apparent dissent in the Army, the essence of the Lebanese Army has not changed. The Lebanese Army, he added, is prepearing to impose legal authority and control over all Lebanese territories.

He concluded: Syria's public stands of support are mere lip service. Its messages on the ground seek to undermine and escalate the situation.

### Cabinet Issues Statement, Views Port Closure

*NC0703115089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 7 Mar 89*

[Text] A cabinet meeting under Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn ended at 1145 today. The following statement was issued:

During its meeting today, the Council of Ministers studied attempts to create tension by those who are offended by the prevailing positive atmosphere of security, and economic and financial stability. These are the results of the reopening of the Beirut port crossing, the closure of illegal ports, and other steps taken by the government and supported by the public.

The cabinet believes that those who create a tense atmosphere have certain goals motivated by their personal interests, including their desire to shake the current stability in dollar rates and improvement in the Lebanese pound rates, which had primarily resulted from reopening crossing points and closing illegal ports.

The cabinet also believes that among the goals of those who hinder the march of stability is aborting the positive achievements of the Arab Good Offices Committee in Kuwait, and obstructing the current of world peace which has started to reach the region. Those people are aware that any effort to reconcile or unite stands in order to resolve the Lebanese problem will have a negative bearing on their personal interests, their suspect partitionist plans, and their schemes to establish statelets.

The cabinet draws attention to the fact that those people have hastened to assume their disruptive stands at a time when the government is asking the ambassadors of the five major states to shoulder their responsibility to help defend Lebanon from possible serious developments which could face the South in view of the Israeli threats to expand the security zone.

The cabinet also expressed surprise that certain people regard the decision to close illegal ports as an economic seige, and the decision to free Beirut port from illegal presence as a means to receive monies which pour outside the state treasury. The government, for its part, has asserted that the port crossing will not be closed for supply convoys. Since resuming activity, the port authorities have been careful to deposit all their daily revenues in the central bank.

The cabinet assures the citizens that though the closure of the port crossing will slow down traffic, it will not obstruct supply convoys or hinder the march of the state toward reassuring its role, particularly its decision to stop smuggling and piracy across the illegal ports, because this decision will remain valid.

The cabinet also discussed the issue of the displaced issue, in light of recent developments. The ministers look upon this issue as a cornerstone in the comprehensive solution strategy. They assert that they will not submit to a certain person, or to a limited, opportunist, and whimsical initiative.

### Soviet Sources Expect Escalation in South

*JN0603185489 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 5 Mar 89 pp 1, 18*

[Excerpt] Beirut—Soviet diplomatic sources in Beirut expect Israel to escalate the tense situation in southern Lebanon in order to obstruct the possibilities of a domestic solution in Lebanon and confound the holding of an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

AL-BAYAN has learned that Soviet Ambassador in Beirut, Vasiliy Kolotusha, has discussed with the parties of the Lebanese resistance front the reasons behind escalating the fedayeen operations in southern Lebanon. These parties informed the ambassador that the escalation of the fedayeen operations in southern Lebanon is a

legitimate right based on their resistance of Israeli occupation and that the Palestinian organizations also escalated the situation in the south in reply to Israeli claims to the effect that the PLO decided to halt its operations launched from southern Lebanon against Israel. [passage omitted]

## Reportage on Tension Between Army, PSP Forces

### Army Posts in Mountains Attacked

*NC0803173989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1550 GMT 8 Mar 89*

[Text] Lebanese Army positions in Qurs al-Mudawwar, Suq al-Gharb, and Hill 888 on the mountain came under antiaircraft and medium-caliber weapons fire at 1700 today. Sounds of explosions could be heard in the capital and the suburbs.

### 'Awn Clique Causes 'Tension'

*NC0803190689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 8 Mar 89*

[Text] Since this morning, the 'Awn clique stationed in Suq al-Gharb has been creating extreme tension along the mountain combat lines, using machineguns and artillery to fire at the residential neighborhoods in 'Alayh, 'Aynab, 'Aytat, Bshamun, Shimlan, Al-Ma'rufiyah, and Baysur. The aggression on these towns intensified shortly before 1800 today. 'Awn's artillery in Bsaba took part in the shelling. The attacks left Shaykh Kamal Muhammad Rabah, who was in his 30's, dead, and caused serious property damage.

The nationalist positions did not return the fire. The security committee set a cease-fire at 1800, but the Al-Yarzah [Army headquarters] clique did not observe it.

### VOM on Army Attacks in Mountains

*NC0903181389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] The military gangs continue their aggression against villages in the mountain areas. These gangs have been directing artillery and heavy-caliber machinegun fire against residential areas in 'Alayh and Shuwayt, and against nationalist positions in Dahr al-Wahsh, Ra's al-Jabal, 'Aytat and Kayfun since this afternoon. The Army positions in Suq al-Gharb, Al-Kahhalah and Al-Qusur have been the source of fire.

Three cease-fire agreements have been reached. However, the military gangs have not respected these agreements. They are resuming their treacherous attacks against Baysur, 'Aytan, Shimlan, and Kayfun.

### 'Tension' Remains High

*NC0903201589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Tension reigns high in the mountain area in the aftermath of the violent clashes which took place tonight between the Lebanese Army positions and the positions of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] gunmen. A cease-fire agreement which was to take effect at 1900 was not implemented until 2015. The PSP attacks reached the residential areas in Al-Kahhalah, Bsus, 'Arraya, Wadi al-Shahrur, and B'abda.

### Army Command Issues Statement

*NC0903210189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] The Army Command's Guidance Directorate issued a statement tonight saying that the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] gunmen suddenly bombarded the Army's positions in [word indistinct] Al-Kahhalah with tank shells at 1735 this evening. They then concertedly shelled the positions in Dahr al-Wahsh with mortar 120-mm shells. This compelled the Army to return the fire to silence its sources in defense of the citizens and their property after the shelling had reached the towns of Bsus, 'Arraya, Al-Kahhalah, Wadi Shahrur, Harat al-Sadd outskirts, and B'abda.

Commenting on the shelling to which the Army has been subjected for the third successive day, a military source said: Since the reactivation of the joint naval operations room, the PSP gunmen have been shelling the Army's positions and the peaceful citizens' homes and villages. These attacks indicate that Mr Walid Junblatt has gone beyond the limits in both his words and deeds. If the Army Command has shown restraint so far in order to safeguard the safety of the civilians whom Junblatt is using as a target for his gunmen, then it warns Junblatt and his gunmen that there is a limit for discipline and restraint. It warns them that they must stop playing with fire because the Army's hand is strong and can reach the aggressors whoever and wherever they may be.

### PSP Withdraws Official From Security Committee

*NC0903203889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] A responsible source in the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has announced the following: In light of the military and security escalation by the Al-Yarzah army cliques and their repeated and increasing acts of aggression against mountain combat lines and citizens in towns and villages, and after these cliques have again resorted to a provocative course through the so-called naval operations room, intercepting civilian and trade ships with the aim of blockading the nationalist areas, exacerbating the security situation and returning the country to a warlike atmosphere, the PSP declares that it is withdrawing its representative to the security committee, Comrade Sa'id al-Dawi, because there is no longer

justification for participating in the committee. This is particularly is so in light of the clear aggressive premeditated plans against the nationalist areas. The PSP holds the separatist and Zionized cliques of 'Awn and Ja'ja' fully responsible for the repercussions of the actions to disturb security and military attacks. The PSP calls on public opinion to expose the goals of this clique and responsibility for this serious security escalation.

### PSP Gunmen, Divers Active Off W. Beirut Coast

*NC1003094589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] Our security correspondent reports that civilian boats were seen at sea off 'Ayn al-Muraysah [in West Beirut] this morning, carrying gunmen belonging to the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP]. The PSP men were wearing diving suits and carrying automatic rifles. Syrian security measures were also observed in the same area.

### Resistance Fighters Attack Lahd on Border Strip

*NC0803191289 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Mar 89*

[Text] In the south this morning, resistance fighters attacked a position of agent Lahd's militia in Al-Qantarah in the central sector of the occupied border strip with machineguns, rockets, and mortar guns. The enemy's radio admitted the operation this morning, saying that the militia returned the fire. However, the radio did not mention the number of casualties.

In another development, national resistance fighters foiled an attempt by an Israeli force, supported by tanks, to advance toward Kafr Rumman town at noon today. Fierce battles involving the use of machineguns and rockets broke out. As a result, the enemy force retreated in the direction of the occupied strip area. Furthermore, the occupation forces shelled the towns of Kafr Rumman and Habbush with heavy artillery, damaging houses and property.

### Ba'th Party Claims Attack Against SLA

*NC0803200789 Paris AFP in English 1935 GMT 8 Mar 89*

[Excerpt] Sidon, Lebanon, March 8 (AFP)—The pro-Syrian Lebanese Ba'th party Wednesday claimed responsibility for an attack on forces of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA), a party statement said.

Several SLA troops were killed or injured and several vehicles destroyed in an ambush of an SLA patrol in the southern Lebanese region of Jazzin, north of the Israeli-imposed "security zone", the statement issued here said.

The Lebanese Ba'th party, which has rarely launched anti-Israeli attacks in the past two years, conducted the operation jointly with the Damascus-backed Amal Lebanese Shi'ite militia, the statement said.

Amal also said that its forces attacked a joint Israeli-SLA patrol in the eastern security zone region of Al-Nabatiyah, killing one soldier and injuring seven others.

The attack coincided with celebrations in Damascus marking the 26th anniversary of the ruling Ba'th party's coming to power. [passage omitted]

### Resistance Attacks SLA, Lahd Targets

*NC0903162089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Resistance fighters in the south today attacked the agents' position in 'Alman with rockets, inflicting losses on the agents. The number remains unknown because of the security cordon which the agent militia laid around the scene of the operation.

Meanwhile, resistance men detonated a land mine today under a vehicle belonging to agent Lahd's militia on the Jubbayn-Yarin Road in the western sector, seriously injuring two agents.

In another development, resistance fighters fired a Katyusha rocket this morning at a position of the agent militia in Jabal Safi, scoring direct hits.

### Amal Group Attacks Joint Israeli, Lahd Position

*NC0903185389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] The Lebanese national resistance battalions—Amal—has issued the following statement:

At exactly 1700 this afternoon, one of our groups—the unit of martyrs Muhammad Sa'd and Khalil al-Jarabi of the Imam al-Mahdi company—launched an attack with rockets and machineguns against the Al-Qandarah position which is jointly held by the enemy forces and the agents. The fighters clashed with the position's garrison for 15 minutes. They destroyed a 12.7 machinegun emplacement and killed three of the position's elements. Following this operation, the enemy, and his agents raked the areas of Al-Qantarah, Wadi al-Suluq, and Wadi al-Hujayr. Zionist helicopters participated in the raking operation.

The towns of 'Ayn Bu Siwar and Al-Luwayzah came under villent artillery fire from the enemy and agents positions in Tallat Sujud and Bi'r Sallal at 1745. The shelling caused damage to property.

### Group Claims Attack on Syrian Post in Tripoli

*NC0903134489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] The 16 January Movement for the Liberation of Tripoli has announced tht one of its groups attacked a Syrian occupation army post near Luqman School in the Al-Mallulah area of Tripoli this morning. The movement said that several Syrian soldiers were killed or wounded in the attack.

The movement denounced the pro-syrian rallies held in Tripoli and stressed that the dawn of salvation is coming.

**Syrian Patrol Clashes With Landlord in Tripoli**
*NC0903162289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] According to exclusive information from the north, a clash took place between a Syrian intelligence patrol, which was trying to raid a house, and the landlord near the Al-Tawbah Mosque in the Al-Dabbaghah District of Tripoli at 1430 today. Preliminary reports say that several members of the Syrian patrol have fallen, including Warrant Officer Khalil of the Mar Marun Post.

**Syrians Surround Home in Tripoli**
*NC0903180389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Reports say Syrian occupation forces have for the past hours, been conducting a campaign of raids in the Al-Zahiriyah area and in the Al-Suwayqah and Abu Samrah areas. Furthermore, Radio Free Lebanon has learned that a number of Syrian intelligence personnel are circling the home of Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban [leader of the Islamic Unification Movement] in Abu Samrah.

**Israeli Aircraft Reconnoiter Mountain Areas**
*NC1003083689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance missions over the mountain and Al-Shuwayfat areas this morning, drawing antiaircraft fire.

**Israelis Reinforce Positions in South**
*NC1003120889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] The Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon and UN forces have recently intensified in an attempt to end the role of these UN forces. Israeli troops continue their siege of Shab'a and are reinforcing their positions. Meanwhile, an Amal Movement security source said today that Israeli troop concentrations had been monitored in the 'Alman, Al-Shumariyah, Al-Tuhrah, and Al-Suwayda' positions and that the Israelis are building fortifications there.

### Al-Asad, Khaddam Receive Lebanon's Al-Huss

*JN0903141589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss at 1300 today. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Dr Salim al-Huss at 1030 today. The meeting dealt with the situation in Lebanon.

### Foreign Minister Confers With Iran's Khalkhali

*LD0903172489 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Damascus, March 9, IRNA—Head of the Majlis Foreign Policy Commission Hojjat ol-Eslam Sadeq Khalkhali conferred with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' here today.

The talks centred on the fresh imperialist-Zionist plot against Islam in the shape of the blasphemous novel "The Satanic Verses" published in Britain, which slanders the spotless character of God's last prophet to mankind, Muhammad (peace be upon him).

The two sides stressed the need for strongly confronting such plots.

On February 14, in accordance with Islamic law, Imam Komeyni the leader of the Islamic Revolution sanctioned [the] death sentence for the Indian born British author Salman Rushdie and publishers of the book.

Shar' said that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria share a common stance on the issue and call for strongly confronting any attempt to profane Islamic sanctities.

He hoped that the forthcoming session of the 45-state Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Riyadh would adopt proper measures against the plot.

Hoj. Khalkhali was in Libya earlier this week, where he coordinated views with the Libyan leader and officials on the Satanic plot.

### Kuwaiti Minister Makes Statement, Departs

*JN0503192889 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Mar 89*

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and his delegatiion left Damascus this evening following a brief visit to Syria during which he gave a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from the amir of Kuwait. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the director of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department, the Kuwaiti ambassador, and Kuwaiti Embassy staff in Damascus.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister made a statement to journalists before leaving Damascus. He said: I have handed His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad a message from his brother, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, dealing with the Arab situation, Lebanon, and the work of the Arab six-member committee. I heard from his excellency nothing but welcome news regarding Syria's assistance to the six-member committee to improve the situation in Lebanon.

When asked who will be invited to the next round of the Arab six-member committee meetings, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said this will be determined soon and official invitations will be sent by the committee's envoy this week to attend the meeting in Kuwait on 17 March.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' answered journalists' questions on Syria's position on the Arab political committee. He said: President Hafiz al-Asad stated to Brother Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad that Syria supports the work of the Arab ministerial committee and is ready to extend every assistance to make the committee a success on behalf of Lebanese national reconciliation, unity and independence. Shaykh Al-Sabah arrived in Damascus this morning.

### Al-Shar' Receives Kuwaiti Ambassador, Message

*JN0903213989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received this evening Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim who conveyed to the minister a message from Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister and chairman of the Arab ministerial Lebanon committee.

Talks during the meeting dealt with the current developments in Lebanese affairs.

### Information Minister Meets U.S. Publishers

*JN0903201489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Damascus—Information Minister Muhammad Salman received today a team of U.S. newspaper publishers visiting the country on a fact-finding tour of Arab countries. The minister briefed the team on Syria's achievements in various fields, especially in the media. Addressing the U.S. newspaper publishers, the minister underlined the importance of the media's role in explaining the country's political position on regional and international issues.

The minister emphasized Syria's principled and constant position on the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said that peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through the convening of an international peace conference attended by all parties to the conflict, including the PLO and the UN Security Council permanent members. The minister indicated that Israel rejects the establishment of peace in the Middle East, despite world unanimity on the need to convene such a conference.

## Afghanistan

### Military Situation, Casualties Updated

#### 'Hundreds' Killed in Nangarhar

*LD0903151289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] An Armed Forces spokesman reports that units of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan stationed in Nangarhar Province are defending the territorial integrity, national sovereignty, and independence against joint attacks by the armed extremist groups and the Pakistani Army. Quoting the Armed Forces spokesman, BAKHTAR reports that armed extremist groups, supported by Pakistani troops and commandos, have concentrated around Sorkh Dival in recent days and launched attacks using heavy and long-range weapons. In response, units of the Afghan Armed Forces have inflicted shatteringly heavy blows to them, killing hundreds of extremists and capturing a number of them. The report adds that the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan also suffered losses.

According to another report the ground forces of the Republic of Afghanistan are being extensively supported by the Republic of Afghanistan Air Force in delivering their shattering blows.

Speaking to a BAKHTAR correspondent in Jalalabad city, a religious leader said: We will steadfastly defend our city and province. We warn the Pakistani militarists that throughout the centuries, the Afghans have convincing taught lessons to the British aggressors and foiled all conspiracies and aggressions by the British. He added that we Afghans will never allow anyone to determine the destiny of our people from Rawalpindi, a place where in 1838 they put in power such traitors as Shah Shuja.

#### Jalalabad Attack 'Repulsed'

*BK0903153089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1523 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Kabul, March 9 (AFP)—A mujahidin attack on the eastern city of Jalalabad has been repulsed by Afghan Governnment forces and the airport and all major military posts are in government hands, a spokesman said here late Thursday.

The government spokesman told foreign journalists here that fighting was continuing in the city and that the airport was again operational after being damaged in the initial attack.

An Afghan resistance leader said Wednesday that mujahidin guerrillas had captured the airport and a garrison at Samar Khel, the main line of defense for Jalalabad about 10 kilometers (six miles) southeast of the city.

#### 27 Rebels Killed in Qandahar

*LD0903175989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] A competent military source reported that the units and subunits of our heroic Armed Forces have inflicted heavy blows on the extremists protected by the militarists of Pakistan in some regions.

During mopping up and retaliatory operations, dozens of the armed warmongering extremists were killed and their various weapons and ammunition were destroyed. Moreover, as a result of armed clashes that flared up between armed extremist groups, a number of the belligerent party's men were killed.

The BIA military section reports the following on the military situation in the past 24 hours:

Qandahar: The units and subunits of the Armed Forces carried out retaliatory operations against warmongering extremists in the surroundings of Tarin Kowt. As a result, 27 extremists were killed and a number were injured. During this operation 4 Kalashnikovs, 2 missiles and 1 75-mm artillery were destroyed and an ammunition depot was set on fire. Three members of the Armed Forces were martyred in this operation and two were injured.

Herat: Differences have increasingly been deepening among the armed extremist groups plundering the people's property. For example 150 men attached to the Jamiyat group, let by Yaq'ub, were captured by the men attached to Gulbuddin's group and several other ringleaders of the Jamiyat group were killed as a result of armed clashes that flared up between 'Abdul Hakim's group, nicknamed Arab, attached to the Gulbuddin band and Jamyiat groups in Owbeh District.

Baghlan: Mopping-up operations were carried out near Ma'dan-e Karkar coal mine to restore security and to prevent subversive actions by the criminal extremist elements. As a result 4 robbers were killed and 10 were injured.

According to another report, 695 youths of the country have joined the ranks of the Armed Forces in the capital and provinces in the past 24 hours.

#### Armed Forces High Command Statement 9 Mar

*LD0903170389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Statement issued by the Afghan Armed Forces High Command on 9 March—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful the compassionate. Our compatriots know that for 4 days now extremist armed groups, with direct help from Pakistani troops, have lauched armed activities in Nangarhar Province.

The extremists, in understanding and dealing with Pakistan and the United States, intend to announce their government, made in Pakistan, today in Jalalabad. Therefore, they are trying to achieve this sinister aim and render service to their Pakistani masters. Units and companies of the Afghan Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province yesterday, 8 March, and today inflicted powerful blows to the opposition, during which the extremist armed groups and Pakistani commandos lost some 1,500 men.

To conceal this defeat and to compensate for their losses, the Pakistani militarists have intensified their direct intervention and aggression, and sent fresh commandos, antitank guns, and guided antitank missiles to Nangarhar Province. Fighting is continuing on this front.

In the course of the continuing fierce fighting, the units and companies of the Afghan Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province are heroically resisting and suffering small losses. According to reports, the Pakistani militarists, to prevent disorder, have joined the enemy ranks and are assuring the extremist armed groups that additional Pakistani forces will be put at their disposal.

Dear compatriots, this is an example of the blatant intervention and aggression against our beloved homeland, Afghanistan. It is brought to the your attention, dear compatriots, that every member of the PDPA and of the units and companies of the Armed Forces in Nangarhar is defending to the death against the open aggression of Pakistan.

We are fully confident that all heroic and patriotic people of Afghanistan will rise to defend their fatherland, this common home of the Afghans, and will not only raise their voices of condemnation against the aggression of Pakistan on the sacred soil of our homeland, but will prepare to defend the homeland. Homeland or death.

### BAHKTAR Reports 'Announcement'

*LD1003064689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 10 Mar 89*

["Announcement by the High Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, March 9, BAKHTAR—Our countrymen are aware that the return of the limited military contingent of the Soviet Union was completed on Feb. 14, 1989 and at the moment there is not a single Soviet soldier in Afghanistan. However, the interventions and encroachments of Pakistani militarymen into the internal affairs of the country are not only continuing but have been intensified. The state of the Republic of Afghanistan has repeatedly declared that the Pakistani advisers, officers and soldiers have been moving by Pakistani helicopters in Nangarhar Province, inside the territory of Afghanistan, for organising attacks on Jalalabad city.

In these days, the extremist armed groups under the direct aegis of Pakistani officers and soldiers have opened the war fronts in the direction of Nangarhar Province as well as in the direction of Qandahar Province.

In Nangarhar Province, the attacks of the armed extremist groups and Pakistani soldiers were concentrated in Sorkh Dival regions using rockets, mortars, artillery and other heavy weapons. Nangarhar military detachments have shown resistance and have decisively defended their positions and inflicted heavy retaliatory blows to them.

In Towr Kotal region of Qandahar Province the enemy's attacks are going on and despite sustaining losses, the military detachments in Towr Kotal by inflicting reciprocal blows to the enemies are defending their positions.

The High Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan is going to keep the Afghan people informed of the development of the situation and the occurence of incidents there.

Dear compatri[illegible] state of the Republic of Afghanistan has repea[illegible]d openly announced that the Pakistani militar[illegible]en have sinister intentions against our country. Now, you observe that despite the signing of the Geneva accords, they are impudently on the side of a number of the armed extremists who are acting against the country and the national interests of the people of Afghanistan. They are engaging in direct intervention and aggressions in different parts of the country particularly in the province of Nangarhar, Qandahar, Paktia, Kabul, Parvan and Herat and some other parts in an effort to continue war and bloodshed and to destroy our historical home, Afghanistan. All the cases which were exposed by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan about the militaristic intentions of Pakistan was true. Our countrymen eyewitness that the armed extremist groups are positioned in the frontline and the Pakistani soldiers are in the rear. The Pakistani soldiers are thus using the extremists as the meat of the mouth of the cannon to achieve their ominous plans for the occupa- of the Afghan land.

The Pakistani militarymen should understand that the Afghans are defending their homeland even under the hardest conditions but it is to be regretted that the extremists as a tool at the hand of Pakistani militarymen are perpetrating the crime of destroying the country and the killing of the people.

Why do they engage in such criminal acts which are against human standards? They understand that after the return of the contingents of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan, the policy of national reconciliation opens its path among the Afghan people whose tendency for securing peace in the increasing day by day. The extremists and the logic of the continuation of war have lost their credibility and the opposition ranks reckon country the continuation of war as a great guilt. [sentence as received]

On the other hand, the refugees in the camps consider the continuation of war as against the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam and thus have several times staged protest demonstrations against the warring activities of the heads of the formations.

The extremists under the pressure of Pakistani militarymen are in favour of the continuation of war and tension. The facts show that the extremists and Pakistani militarymen not only are striving to establish a so-called Pakistani-Afghan government but also want to see the death of the last Afghan and the destruction of their homes as a result of the continuation of war.

The recent information says that after the return of the Soviet military contingents a large number of commanders of the opposition armed groups either in their contact with the state authorities or have independently considered the continuation of war and bloodshed as against the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam and want to stop war in their related areas. However, Pakistan's militarymen and the leaders of armed extremists have not abandoned their spiteful objectives and exert diverse pressure on the commanders compelling them to continue war.

The development of such a situation is the result of the direct intervention by Pakistani militarymen aimed at destroying Afghanistan and killing the last Afghan.

Dear countrymen: Despite that the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan are able to give a crushing rebuff to such subversive and aggressive strivings call on all armed commanders and armed groups who are not in favour of the continuation of war and fratricide to ensure security in their region and not to let the bellicose extremists to engage in bloodshed, destruction and looting.

The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan call on all dear compatriots to be vigilant against the plots and heinous intentions of Pakistani militarymen and to help its Armed Forces for defending the country.

## Pakistani Envoy Summoned; 'Aggression' Protested

*LD0903154989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this afternoon. A strong protest from the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan concerning the ground and air aggression by the Pakistani Armed Forces was conveyed to him. He was told that despite the repeated protests by the Republic of Afghanistan, the Pakistani militia, along with Afghan armed extremists, are deeply and extensively involved in subversive operations against the Republic of Afghanistan. For instance on 8 March, 500 militiamen of that country, along with 20 Pakistani and U.S. advisors, came via Towr Kham to the Ghaziabad farming region in Nangarhar Province to help the Afghan extremists attack Jalalabad city. These militia and advisors were completely crushed by the shattering blows of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Also, in continuing its aggression, on 8 March the Pakistani Air Force flew one jet aircraft into Afghan territory from the direction of Sataw Kandaw at a speed of 700 km per hour. After making a reconnaissance flight over regions of Dowr Baba subdistrict, in Nangarhar Province, it returned to Pakistani territory.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan strongly protests these aggressions by the Pakistani Armed Forces, which are contrary to all accepted international norms and are in open violation of the Geneva accords. It demands that the responsible Pakistani authorities refrain from repeating such irresponsible actions, otherwise dangerous consequences will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

## Protest Notes 286-289 Submitted to UNGOMAP

*LD1003073689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] Kabul, March 9, BAKHTAR—Flagrant and repeated violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords were submitted by the Liaison Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan through notices number 286, 287, 288 and 289th to the Office of the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) on Wednesday.

In the 288th notice strict information are provided to UNGOMAP on the military training camps of Qamaruddin Kalai, Peshawar and Parachinar where extremists are trained by Pakistani and foreign military advisors in the use of arms and subversive activities and later are sent into Afghanistan. In the notice it is also specified that existance of the said camps beside hundred other military training camps for Afghan extremists in the Pakistani territory fully contravene with the provisions of the Geneva accords especially its paragraph 8, document number one which prevents the high [word indistinct] parties in the training, arming, financing and employing of mercenaries to carry hostile activities against the signatories of the said accords.

Attention of UNGOMAP in the coninuation of the dispatchng of armaments of different make such as ground to ground rockets, anti-vehicle and anti-personnel mines and assigning of foreign miliary advisors from the Pakistani territory inside Afghanistan is drawn in the 287th notice. The notice further adds that dispatching of such arms means nothing instead of escalation of war and continuation of fratricide in the Republic of Afghanistan.

A list of the barbaric acts of the extemists, supported by Pakistan, as a result of which tens of innocent civilians are killed and remarkable material losses inflicted to the misery striken Afghans is included with notice number 288th. It further ask UNGOMAP to invstigate delivery of arms and ammunition by Pakistan to extremists enabling them to commit such bestial acts against the civilians.

Intrusion of 150 Pakistani militias, on March 3, in the Sar-e Howz area, Paktia Province is pointed out in the 289th notice. The notice says that the Pakistani militias were dispatched there to take direct part in the plunderous and subversive acivities in the environs of Gardeyz city and Sayyed Karam District.

### Khalili Denies Interim Government Representation

*LD0903151989 Tehran IRNA in English 1502 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA—A spokesman for the Iran-based coalition of eight Afghan groups today categorically denied a claim by the Pakistan-based mujahidin leader Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, that the coalition was represented in the provisional government.

Muhammad Karim Khalili told IRNA by telephone that the coalition was unaware of any agreement with the Pakistan-based seven party alliance, as claimed by Mojaddedi, the head of the proposed interim government.

On Gulbuddin Hikmatyar's recent visit to Tehran, the spokesman said he was here with a message from the seven-party alliance calling on the coalition to despatch a delegation to Pakistan for talks.

Hikmatyar, who heads one of the Peshawar based parties was not authorized to hold talks with the Iran-based mujahidin leaders, he said.

During Hikmatyar's stay, the coalition had agreed that either it despatches a delegation to Pakistan or the alliance would send a group with more authority to Tehran for talks on the formation of the intermim government, the shura and holding of elections, Khalili said.

He said the date and venue of talks between the Iran and Pakistan based mujahidin would soon be made known.

Despite earlier accords of granting the coalition 100 seats in the proposed 500-seat shura, some Peshawar groups went ahead with the interim government ignoring the rights of Iran-based Afghan mujahidin.

The 8-group coalition holds large tracts of Afghanistan, and talks with it would definitely benefit Afghan solidarity.

### Convoys Carrying Food, Fuel Arrive in Kabul

*LD0903183189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Convoys of basic commodities for the people continue to arrive. Yesterday and today 123 vehicles arrived in Kabul. BAKHTAR reports that these convoys of private and government vehicles brought petroleum products, flour, rice, cooking oil, and other basic commodities from Hayratan border to Kabul.

The transportation of petroleum products and food to Kabul is continuing. The country's courageous Armed Forces have restored the security of convoys and Kabul-Hayratan highway.

### Wakil Appeals to UNESCO, UNICEF for Aid

*LD1003070489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] Kabul, March 9, BAKHTAR—'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, has sent separate messages to Federico Mayor, general director of UNESCO and James Grant, manager of UNICEF. The messages drew the attention of these organisations to the great losses incurred to the Republic of Afghanistan due to the ten years of the undeclared war. The messages also called on the organisations to use their good offices in providing worthwhile aids to the Republic of Afghanistan.

## India

### PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives on 2-Day Visit

*BK0903124489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] The PLO leader, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in New Delhi a short while ago on a 2-day state visit to the country. He was given a ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] by the president, the prime minister, and his Cabinet colleagues. Talking to newsmen, Mr 'Arafat said he expects a lot from his current visit.

### Meets Gandhi, Venkataraman

*BK1003035989 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO], Mr Yasir 'Arafat, today began his 2-day state visit to India. He was given a warm and affectionate welcome by the president, Mr Venkataraman, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The PLO chief inspected an interservices guard of honor. Mr 'Arafat is on his fifth visit to India, but this is the first one after the declaration of the State of Palestine.

In a statement, the PLO leader said that he has come to India for fruitful and friendly talks with old friends. Mr 'Arafat said he expects a lot from the visit.

Later, the PLO chief called on the president. Mr Venkataraman said the Palestinian leader has shown great courage in his relentless struggle to establish peace in west Asia. Mr 'Arafat thanked India for its consistent support throughout the PLO struggle. The talks lasted ½ an hour.

The PLO chief had a long meeting with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. Mr 'Arafat apprised Mr Gandhi of the efforts to settle the Palestine issue. The two leaders discussed the effort for convening a UN-sponsored conference to settle the issue. The situation in the occupied territory and the Palestinian uprising against Israel came up during the talks. Mr Gandhi and Mr 'Arafat are reported to have exchanged views on peace negotiations between the PLO and the United States. He also discussed Afghan and other regional issues.

There were also official-level talks. Mr Rajiv Gandhi headed the Indian delegation and the Palestine delegation was led by Mr Yasir 'Arafat.

Earlier, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, told newsmen after receiving the PLO chairman at Rashtrapathy Bhavan [President's House] that there is no proposal to upgrade diplomatic ties with Israel. About the proposed UN conference on Palestine and the reservations of the United States and Israel about it, he said there are some complications. He would discuss the matter with Mr 'Arafat.

### Further on Meetings

*BK1003031689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] India has appealed to world leaders to grasp the unique opportunity created by the initiatives of the PLO leader Mr Yasir 'Arafat to solve the Palestinian problem. The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, made the call while speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of Mr 'Arafat in New Delhi last night. He said even the United States has acknowledged the constructive program presented by the PLO to create a positive climate for resumption of peace talks. He expressed the hope that Israel will fall in line with the desires of the international community.

Mr Venkataraman also called for due and urgent consideration of the Soviet Union's comprehensive plan on peace talks on West Asia through a UN-sponsored international peace conference. He said there can be no durable peace in the region without a comprehensive and just settlement of the Palestinian problem.

Reaffirming India's continued and unstinted support to the Palestinian people, Mr Venkataraman conveyed to Mr 'Arafat the country's warm felicitations at the proclamation of the independent State of Palestine. He also expressed confidence that Mr 'Arafat's talks in New Delhi will bring about a concrete understanding on the steps India and the PLO would jointly take for a settlement on the Palestine issue.

Earlier, Mr 'Arafat had talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. Both the leaders discussed the latest situation in West Asia and the Palestinian problem. Mr 'Arafat will again have talks with Mr Gandhi before leaving for Dhaka today.

### Talks Said 'Fruitful'

*BK1003093189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] The PLO leader, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, has expressed the hope that a peaceful settlement will be found to the Afghan issue. He was replying to a newsman's question after opening the embassy of the Palestine state in New Delhi today. Asked about his meeting with Afghan rebel leaders while in Pakistan, he said he is doing his best, but he declined to divulge any details.

Mr 'Arafat described his initial talks with Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi as constructive and fruitful. He said that apart from West Asia and Afghanistan, they discussed the Cambodian issue and the situation in the South Asian region. The talks were directed at finding solutions to all crises through combined efforts. The question of finding a settlement to the Iran-Iraq war and providing support to Namibia and the Frontline States also came up.

The embassy of the new Palestine state opened in New Delhi today with a simple and solemn ceremony. Mr Yasir 'Arafat hoisted their national flag in the presence of diplomats and ministers.

## Planned U.S. Sale of F-16's to Pakistan Protested

*BK1003070689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] India has again expressed its concern to the United States over the proposed sale of advanced F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. The secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr Alfred Gonsalves, and the joint secretary, Mr P.K. Singh, now in Washington, met U.S. officials yesterday. They are understood to have explained the repercussions of the induction of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan, particularly at a time when the relations between the two countries appear to be changing for the better.

Islamabad had asked Washington for 60 F-16 fighter aircraft.

The two Indian officials are in Washington for periodic bilateral consultations with their U.S. counterparts.

## Supreme Court Objects To Holding Bhopal Payments

*BK0903125989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] The Constitution bench of the Supreme Court hearing petitions on the Bhopal gas disaster relief act has expressed reservations about holding back the compensation amount paid by Union Carbide till absolute

liability is fixed. The 5-judge bench observed that the proposal to hold back the compensation amount was against judicial and national conscience.

The Madhya Pradesh governor, Professor K.M. Chandi, has expressed satisfaction over the Supreme Court's judgment on compensation to the gas victims. Opening the budget session of the state assembly today, he said it will now be the government's prime duty to distribute the compensation to the genuine claimants at the earliest.

Opposition members attended the house wearing black scarves in protest against the settlement. A bundh [strike] was observed in Bhopal today in response to a call given by the Bharatiya Janata Party and other organizations to protest against the settlement. Shops and markets in most areas remained closed.

### Bilateral Cooperation Protocol Signed With USSR

*BK0903090489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] India and the Soviet Union today signed a protocol to give a further impetus to bilateral cooperation in many fields. It was initialed in New Delhi by the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the Soviet deputy prime minister, Mr V.N. Kamentsev, at the end of the 12th session of the ministerial commission for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation. A working group has been set up for new forms of economic cooperation, like joint ventures, production cooperation, and direct ties between enterprises of the two countries. Ten joint ventures have been finalized, including four in the field of production. In production cooperation, 17 agreements and contracts have been reached aggregating an amount of 125 crore rupees. The joint commission also identified new areas of cooperation in civil aviation, railways, shipbuilding, and inland water transport system.

### Talks With Pakistan on Siachen Issue Planned

*BK1003010689 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] The defense secretaries of India and Pakistan are to hold talks on the Siachen issue in the near future. This was announced by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr K. Natwar Singh, in the Lok Sabha today. The minister recalled that the Pakistan prime minister has described Siachen as an unnecessary irritant in the relations between the two countries. This was stated by Ms Benazir Bhutto in a recent interview. Answering a question, Mr Natwar Singh said the only issue which remains to be solved between the two countries is the vacation of the Indian territory under Pakistan's illegal occupation. The minister reiterated the government's stand that all matters between India and Pakistan should be resolved bilaterally and in accordance with the Simla agreement. He said India has agreed to support Pakistan's reentry into the Commonwealth whenever there is a formal request from Islamabad. He pointed out that one democratically elected government in Pakistan had earlier decided to quit the Commonwealth. If another democratically elected government wants to rejoin the Commonwealth, India will support the move, the minister added.

### Bhutto's Move To Gain Control of Army Noted

*BK0803104589 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 28 Feb 89 p 13*

[Editorial: "Benazir Moves"]

[Text] Ms Benazir Bhutto's decision to retire 40 senior Army officers, known as Ziaul Haq loyalists and past the age of superannuation, is the bold move of a democratic leader whose natural instinct would be to establish the supremacy of civilian authority over that of the military. This has easily been the most significant measure in her three months as Prime Minister. A long meeting she had with the Army Chief last week led to the speculation that she has the support of General Mirza Aslam Beg, who has been reiterating since August last that politics should be left to the politicians. Whether the retirement of the 40 officers is a part of the scheme of depoliticisation of the armed forces, it is too early to say. Ms Bhutto's move to retire them may not, technically speaking, be a challenge to the military. After all, it can be argued, if these officers have continued to be in office beyond the age of retirement, they had been blocking promotions of a number of younger officers. This latter category of officers, whatever their political persuasion, is certain to welcome Ms Bhutto's decision, and this could encourage her to take more steps to gain control over the Army.

Even accepting for argument's sake that Ms Bhutto's primary concern was not to weaken the military as she has only pleased one category of officers at the cost of another, the measure could not have failed to drive a message home. Perhaps she has floated a trial balloon for the military-bureaucratic axis to test its reaction. Her intention basically is to assert civilian political authority, and it is seen more clearly in her reported decision to denude the military intelligence outfit, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Directorate, of the job of political surveillance. The ISI is widely known to be a law unto itself, with immense funds and undefined political power. It has been the principal pillar of the Ziaul Haq regime, and Ms Bhutto would find it impossible to change the political style in Pakistan without drastically restricting the ISI's authority. The ISI had played a questionable role against her People's Party for General Ziaul Haq. Within a fortnight of her taking over as Premier, Ms Bhutto assigned a sympathetic Air Force officer to examine the ISI affairs. What might have lent urgency to her objective is a resurgence of her political adversary, the Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad (IJI), the political platform of groups that support a high profile military. Besides the victory in the recent by-elections, the IJI has been boosted by the mobilisation of the Ulema and Mashaikh (Pirs). At the recent conference at Chiniot, they decreed that Islam does not permit a woman as head of government. They have also been

accused of organising the violent protest over Salman Rushdie's book, although Ms Bhutto has reckoned that she can no longer postpone her war with the military and its fundamentalist promoters. She has fired the first salvo, and probably would be ready to fire again. But there is no doubt she needs to be cautious; her discreet style in the first three months in office encourages the belief that will be so without losing her direction.

### Week-Long General Strike in Assam Ends 9 Mar

*BK1003055489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0521 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Excerpt] New Delhi, March 10 (AFP) - A week-long general strike called by tribal militants has ended in the northeastern Indian state of Assam after leaving at least 16 people dead in violence, news reports said Friday.

The strike, called by the All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) to protest against alleged discrimination by the state's Assam Gana Parishad (people's council) government and press demands for a separate state, ended Thursday.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) quoted police as saying that 16 people, including eight ABSU activists, were killed in violence during the week which also witnessed widespread arson.

PTI quoted unconfirmed reports as saying that another five people were killed [in] Udalguri district.

The deaths and injuries occurred in clashes between strike supporters and opponents and in police action. Nearly 100 people were arrested in connection with the violent incidents. [passage omitted]

### Punjab Government Moving To Restore Normalcy

*BK0903160889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] The Punjab government today announced several decisions as a followup to the prime minister's recent announcement to bring back normalcy to the state. It has withdrawn the disturbed area notification issued under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act and the Punjab Disturbed Area Act in all the districts except Amritsar, Gurdaspur, and Ferozepore. The government will set up a cell in the social welfare department to ensure rehabilitation of the released Jodhpur undertrials. The cell will also look after the rehabilitation of widows and children of the victims of terrorist violence and Delhi riots. The government has also withdrawn restrictions on the visits of foreigners to the state.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, says the forthcoming Panchayati [village council] elections in Punjab will be a major step toward restoring the democratic process in the state. In an interview to the national channel of ALL INDIA RADIO, he expressed confidence that these elections will be conducted successfully with the cooperation of the people.

Referring to the steps taken by the Center and the Punjab administration, Mr Buta Singh said these have been fully supported by the people who have realized that terrorists are against national unity. He said the government is determined to eliminate terrorist and the secessionist forces in Punjab.

### Autonomous Body for Defense Exports Examined

*BK0703094789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 7 Feb 89*

[Text] The government is examining a proposal for setting up an autonomous organization for promoting defense exports. The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, informed the Rajya Sabha today that it will be a highly specialized organization. Replying to supplementaries, he said the exports will be within the parameters of the overall national policy. Mr Pant said there is also scope for coproduction which will make the products competitive.

Earlier, the minister said three public sector units—the Hindustan Aeronautics, the Bharat Electronics, and the Bharat Earthmovers—exceeded their targets of export in 1987-88.

## Iran

### Rafsanjani Discusses Rushdie in Friday Prayers

*LD1003105589 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 10 Mar 89*

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA—The only way to calm the storm over "The Satanic Verses" was to ban and destroy the book, Majlis Speaker 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said. "If it stays, it will remain forever a source of rebellion and it would be impossible that peace would come between real Muslims and the suporters of this book," he stressed. "The only solution that exists... is to issue a strict order to seize all copies in the entire world and burn it," said the hojjat ol-eslam who received instant support from the massive crowd at Friday prayer with cries of Alla-o Akbar.

The West was in a dilemma: if it stopped the printing of Salman Rushdie's novel, it would have to retreat from the claim of defending the right of free expression. And on the other hand, if it allows the continued distribution of the book, it would always provoke anger from Muslims. But the Majlis speaker said it clear that the solution to this, as he called it, strangest and rarest crisis in history, should be sought and found where it first began.

"If those who ignited this flame do not find a suitable solution, no one knows where it would lead to."

Rafsanjani characterized the crisis as a series of deliberate moves and blunders by western leaders, including Britain's Margaret Thatcher and Viking-Penguin who were warned beforehand by Muslims of the provocative contents of "The Satanic Verses". But the West believed that by accusing the Islamic Republic of trying to suppress freedom of expression would eventually bring Iran to its knees because no one these days believed in the suppression of thought.

"Who's to say that freedom of the pen should not be... we ourselves gave away life to defend the freedom of the pen" but Rushdie had gone too far and Islam could not tolerate such abuse.

The reaction to the withdrawal of European Community ambassadors from Tehran showed Iran would not be intimidated by such protests and the threat of breaking off ties was countered by Iran taking the initiative in cutting relations with Britain.

"They (Western states) have suffered major losses becuase they threw everything they had in the arena in the very first day. Now they see they have nothing to fight with." The speaker said that Britain had contacted Iranian diplomats to seek ways of solving the crisis, just ten minutes after a Majlis vote giving London a week until last Tuesday to reconsider its position.

The British Prime Minister, as well as foreign and home secretaries admitted that the book by the Indian-born British author was deeply offensive to Muslims. "But they didn't have the guts to say that 'we also did wrong, we supported (Rushdie), we too are guilty.'" "Their pride didn't allow them to say the truth so that they could get out of this trouble. So they bore humiliation and couldn't stop relations from being cut either." All this, Rafsanjani presumed, was mainly because the West does not understand Islam.

"Maybe the prime reason (for the row) is that their analyses are bad. They don't have knowledge about the world of Islam. They think (Muslim) people are indifferent."

## Commentaries View Severing Ties With UK

### UK 'Propaganda' Cited

*LD0903130989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1051 GMT 9 Mar*

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to our dear listeners. In the wake of the Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] severance of ties with England 2 days ago, the media and various political forums of the world have looked at this issue from different angles and perspectives. The press and radio and television stations of friends and enemies alike have analyzed the positive and negative aspects of severing ties with England from their own perspectives. They have further described the advantages and disadvantages that this may bring to both England and Iran.

Naturally, as expected, during this time the English Government and some of its associates and allies have been trying to use propaganda to condemn the IRI; and they have brought political and economic pressure to bear upon our country. At the same time, their propaganda has attempted to dissipate Muslim protests the world over. This is because the English politicians and political observers believe that at present any rash or unplanned move in that country's propaganda may lead to results contrary to their objectives and may even lead to the world's Muslims and other free peoples uniting to give extensive support to the IRI as before, instead of leading to the diplomatic isolation of Islamic Iran.

The damage to England's reputation in the Islamic countries and in the eyes of the world's Muslims, caused by the royal award [as heard] given to "The Satanic Verses" and also the ineffectual progaganda and political support which that country's government has given the book's author, has provided useful lessons for the English experts, so that from now on they might be more careful in their propaganda.

Despite all of this, given the ever-growing sense of Islamic identity, alertness, and awareness in all Muslim countries, the issue of insult to Islamic sanctities is not one that the English Government can gloss over with other peripheral and distorted stories; nor can it avoid gross repetitive mistakes in resorting to its classic methods of propaganda.

The scenario enacted in that country's House of Commons yesterday, was representative of the futile and desperate efforts that reveal the inability of English statesmen to use propaganda against the IRI. The premeditated exchange of questions and answers that took place between one of the MP's and the English foreign secretary made it clear to all that that country's government has once again committed a great mistake in choosing its propaganda. Rather, it showed that the country has stepped into quicksand; and the more it tries to move, the deeper it will sink; ultimately it will lead to considerable harm, not only for England but for the Western world in general.

Geoffrey Howe, the English foreign secretary, in the House of Commons, replied to question from one of the MP's in relation to condemning the IRI for disregarding human rights, saying: Despite the fact that we have a great deal of respect for the Iranian people, we still say clearly to the Iranian officials that we are very concerned about human rights abuse in Iran.

Of course, this remark by Howe that he has great respect for the Iranian people does not correspond to his moves supporting Salman Rushdie and the English Government's granting the royal award to the blasphemous

book which insults the sanctities of these same people. But whether or not he and the MP are very concerned about human rights abuse in Iran, they must know that world opinion may ask them how it was that the MP coincidentally remembered this important issue at this particular time? Does this not show that in the opinion of the West, the regard or disregard for human rights in Iran is related to whether Iran has political relations with them or not?

What took place in the English parliament yesterday in reality showed that the only propaganda approach that the English Government has selected for its confrontation with the IRI is once again to bring up the issue of human rights. It is interesting that the state of the world at the moment is such that England will not be able to use this approach effectively. At present the English Government's support for Israel and South Africa and other world tyrants, exposes the ostensible image of that country's government on human rights for what it is. Further, the [Northern] Irish issue itself has caused a multitude of problems for that government.

Under these conditions, any political or propaganda venture against our country will emphasize the leading role of the IRI among the world's Muslims, while further revealing England's animosity against Islamism [Eslamgarayi]. That type of animosity has produced the opposite effect of what was intended, and has made the influence of Iran and its leaders upon the world's Muslims clearer than ever. The unprecedented and rather unexpected global support given to Imam Khomeyni's religious decree against Salman Rushdie is an alarm bell to which the English Government must be more sensitive than ever, if it is to save itself from further disgrace.

## Britain 'Will Be the Loser'

*LD0903205489 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Political commentary]

[Text] The foreign secretary of the British Isles, in a reaction to the Islamic Republic's move on the severance of her diplomatic relations with that country, has attempted, by deciding to expel Iranian residents from Britain and to order the closure of the Iranian Consulate in Hong Kong, to make amends for London's supremacy seeking vanity that has been shattered by Iran's severance of her ties with that country.

The issue worth pondering in Geoffrey Howe's comments related to [words indistinct] which brought back to one's mind the statements made by the colonialist rulers of the British Isles 2 centuries ago. It now appears that the present day world has become much different from the one in the past. But the rulers in the British Isles still think that they are in a position to speak to others with conceit and harshness.

However, it is advisable that the rulers in the British Isles open their eyes to the current realities and discern the fact that times have already changed. Neither Britain is the great Britain of the past, nor the people are to be deceived any further by such statements. [sentence as heard]

The people of the present day world are vigilant and well informed and have assumed their own destiny. This characteristic is evident among Muslims more than at any other time. Undoubtedly, the Islamic Republic has severed its diplomatic ties within the framework of legal and Islamic principles on the account of Britain's obstinate attempt to insult the Islamic world and Muslims, and the impact of this measure too are undoubtedly to the detriment of Britain.

The Iranians see the expulsions from Britain and the closure of Islamic consulate in Hong Kong among the passive moves taken by the British Isles, showing the weakness and infirmity of that so-called civilized state. The British Government's failure to approach political issues, problems, and crises in a sensible manner is indicative of its concern and disturbance of mind when it tries to cover up these (?ways) through such clamorous acts.

Undoubtedly, the Islamic Republic will give a proper response to the rulers in the British Isles cooly, out of reliance on Islamic principles and international relations, for it is the British Government which has enormous interests in the Islamic world. The Islamic Republic and the world Muslims have never got anything other than loss and detriment from their ties with the Britain. But to imagine such an attitude will lead to the creation of an atmosphere of intimidation is one of the constant mistakes committed by the rulers in the British Isles.

There are currently present in Iran such persons who under the pretext of acting as correspondents, embassy attaches, and protecting interests, and so on, are engaged in spying for Britain and undoubtedly it is Britain that will be the loser as the result of retaliatory measures. Now Roger Cooper as someone who under the pretext of business and also posing as a reporter in Iran has engaged himself in spying for Britain's spying organizations for a period of 25 years, is lodged in gaol awaiting his trial. In the course of interrogation he has made some important confessions and comments concerning the mechanism of Britain's interventions in Iran and in other Islamic states. Revelation of these issues can greatly disgrace Britain.

Although the British officials have attempted to depict Roger Cooper as an ordinary businessman, his shocking and express confessions show that the British Government under different pretexts is engaged in spying in various Islamic countries. Undoubtedly, showing sensitivity towards these issues can create irreparable losses for Britain.

## British 'Concern' Noted

*LD0503221489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1930 GMT 5 Mar 89*

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Excerpt] In the wake of the unprecedented move by Iran's Islamic Consultative Assembly in approving a bill severing diplomatic ties with Britain, that country's political circles, in the face of the unity and solidarity among Iran's political officials and people, are giving priority to the genuine Islamic belief and [word indistinct] are expressing concern over the probability of snapping ties in view of the conditions laid down by the Iranian parliament. While British Foreign Office officials have, on numerous occasions, requested talks on the matter with IRI Foreign Ministry officials, the Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying: Britain must give an official response to the Islamic Consultative Assembly's demand, and there will not be any negotiations on this.

Iran's foreign minister has denied making any sort of contacts with the British press on the subject. Now, after the lapse of 6 days since the Iranian move, the two countries are in a [word indistinct] ambiguity. The influential British press, in an attempt to prevent total severance of diplomatic ties with Iran, is recommending that the British Government apologize to the Islamic Republic. At the same time, the British prime minister, in an interview, has implicitly accepted the insulting nature of the book, "The Satanic Verses," and noted that she duly understands the reason for the Muslim reaction to that book. British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe has explicitly declared that the book, "The Satanic Verses," is an insult to Islam. Explicit admissions on the part of British officials about the insulting nature of the book will come in as much [words indistinct]. The British Government, by accepting the insulting nature of the book, cannot have any objections to the issue of the related decree on execution of the book's author. For the decree is in line with the [word indistinct] laws of Islam. Also, the British Government cannot maintain silence in the face of an insult to the sanctities of the major part of the world population by one of its citizens and on its own territory.

The British Government, by duly accepting the insulting nature of the book, "The Satanic Verses," and with regard to the freedom of expression, on which it has laid its stress, must now explain whether the freedom of expression is a licence for slander and insult. Doesn't the British Government consider freedom of expression for the Muslims? The legal prosecution of the book's author, banning the publication and circulation of the book, and confiscating its copies from book shops constitutes logical expectations that can (?happily) lift many of the existing ambiguities. [passage omitted]

## 'Significant Arms Dealings' With Moscow Reported

*NC0403142089 Terhan TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Feb 89 p 2*

[Editorial from the "Opinion" column: "Shevardnadze Trip: A Boost to Moscow-Tehran Ties"]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Tehran last night for a two-day visit with the Iranian authorities. This will be the last leg of the Soviet foreign minister's visit to the Middle East. The Soviet Union's foreign minister's visit to Iran draws its significance from the fact that Eduard Shevardnadze carries Gorbachev's response to Imam Khomeyni's message. In the eyes of political circles in Tehran this response carries a great deal of weight for the future developments in the region.

Indeed this is the first visit between a highranking foreign official and the leader of the Islamic Revolution in the last 7 years. Informed political sources have already shown signs of attaching a great amount of importance to what Imam will say in this meeting. This particularly gains momentum at a time when the West in an all-out verbal assault on the Islamic Republic of Iran has pushed its relations with Iran to an all time low level during the last 10 years. This relation is even expected to experience a spiralling plunge within the next few days.

US, however, has been steadily edging towards a step-by-step amelioration in relations on economic, military and political grounds with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The two principal causes for the deterioration of relations between Iran and Russia, namely Iraq-Iran war and the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, have already been removed opening all the doors for the development of cordiality between the two countries. In fact one of the most vivid signs of improvement in relations between Iran and Russia should be sought in the last joint commission that was held in December in Moscow. In this meeting military delegations from both countries participated for the first time to discuss joint military issues. According to an informed source discussions are going on now between high-ranking authorities of the two countries on significant arms dealings between Iran and Moscow. It is anticipated that the issue will further be taken up with Eduard Shevardnadze in Iran since he is scheduled to meet with all top leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to informed political sources the success or failure of Shevardnadze's visit to Tehran hinges upon Gorbachev's response to Imam Khomeyni's historical and significant message to be delivered by Shevardnadze. What remains to be seen is whether Gorbachev's response to Imam's message turns out to be ideologically oriented in nature or not. Another possibility would be that Gorbachev's response to Imam's message would only touch on ideological aspects in passing, concentrating mainly on the expansion of economic and political ties between the two countries.

## Larijani, Asgharzadeh Speak on Foreign Policy

*NC0903120289 Tehran RESALAT in Persian*
*1 Mar 89 p 2*

[Text] A conference entitled "The Islamic Republic's Foreign Policy after the Acceptance of Resolution 598" was held yesterday afternoon in the presence of a large number of Tehran University students at the Sheykh Morteza Ansar auditorium of the Department of Law and Political sciences of the University of Tehran.

During the conference, Dr Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs, and Eng Mohammad Ebrahim Asgharzadeh, Tehran deputy and member of the Majlis Foreign Policy Committee, discussed the country's foreign policy.

Our correspondent reports that Mr Larijani first referred to the West's reaction to Imam Khomeyni's decree on the punishment of Salman Rushdie, saying: Following the imam's decree on punishing Salman Rushdie, the West faced a great crisis, which will go further than the severance of relations between the EEC member countries and Iran.

He added: How can the westerners, who consider themselves the flagbearers of freedom of thought, raise such a commotion over the view of a leader? They have all united against the Islamic Republic as if Iran had carried out a military expedition against London.

Mr Larijani also said: Separating the Islamic Republic's diplomacy before Resolution 598 from its diplomacy after Resolution 598 is not really valid, because our sincere and practical beliefs are in Islam and in the velayat-e faqih, and we work on the basis of the directives of the leadership.

According to our correspondent's report, Mr Asgharzadeh spoke in favor of Mr Larijani's remarks on separating diplomacy into the periods before and after the resolution, and said: Our foreign policy is directly linked with domestic affairs. Unfortunately we are having some problems here. After the acceptance of the resolution it was said that national capital should be used for reconstruction, but the issue developed differently.

He added: The policy that the Foreign Ministry regulates and implements primarily concerns the establishment of relations with the West, in addition to being based on a theoretical foundation. It disregards history. It also lacks a general assessment of the outside world and the mode of solidarity with it.

He pointed out: If we look at the record of the United Nations and the Security Council, we will see that in the past they worked toward the suppression of the uprising of nations.

Dr Larijani went on to explain the Islamic Republic's foreign policy. He said: In establishing relations with the world, we are facing nations. As far as this is concerned, we have relied on ourselves and have not bribed anyone.

He added: In the establishment of relations with the East and the West, we should not lean on them. We should try not to come under their domination, and we should imitate the prophet of God, peace be upon him, when it comes to domination by others.

In answer to Mr Asgharzadeh's remarks on taking history into consideration when establishing relations, Mr Larijani said: It is correct to take history into consideration. But history cannot be a basis for policies. Throughout history there have been cases of unfavorable relations between us and a large number of countries. If this were the basis for our relations with other countries, we would not have any relations with them. Therefore, in establishing relations with other countries, we should consider our own interests.

He added: Our policy is to recognize our main objectives and draw up a plan to achieve them. The essence of the construction and elevation of the revolution lies in taking new steps.

Mr Larijani continued by stating that in all international forums we have been the standard-bearers of change. He said that the world had taken note of Mr Khamene'i's speech to the Security Council. In relation to the Foreign Ministry's policy on the acceptance of Resolution 598 he said: The acceptance of the views of the Security Council, especially as far as Resolution 598 is concerned, is in the hands of the velayat-e faqih, and we regulate our policy on the basis of the views of the leadership. There is not one case of our having placed our fate in the hands of the members of the Security Council.

He pointed out: Our diplomacy is implemented on the basis of the imam's view and those of the heads of the three powers. As for the establishment of relations with the East and the West, we follow our own interests.

Eng Azgharzadeh then described the country's diplomacy during the war as weak. In connection with the publication of "The Satanic Verses" he said: In its approach to this issue the Islamic Republic was concerned with the person of Salman Rushdie and his book. But the western governments adopted a stand against us, and this should not be ignored in our foreign policy.

Referring to the country's economic situation before and after the revolution, he supported the idea of refraining from taking foreign loans. He declared: Powerful countries do not feel sorry for weak nations when it comes to extending loans to them. They consider their own interests above everything else.

Mr Larijani went on to speak about the Foreign Ministry's policy in wartime and peacetime. He stated: The Foreign Ministry operates like a tool at the disposal of the imam. Our diplomacy is regulated on the basis of circumstances of war or peace.

On the question of foreign debts, he said: The issue of foreign loans was brought up along with the issue of reconstruction. It was asked where we should borrow from. Reconstruction should start from within, and loans should be thought of only when a vacuum is created in a major issue.

He added: The issue of the transfer of technology is separate from the issue of loans. We should think of something as far as the transfer of technology is concerned so that in coming years we will be able, in view of the country's capabilities, to stand on our own two feet.

Mr Asgharzadeh also spoke about the Majlis decision on severing relations with Britain. He asserted: If we glance at the record of Iran's relations with Britain, we see that Britain has interfered in our country's domestic affairs. It worked against us in the Security Council. When the nest of spies [U.S. Embassy] was occupied, it encouraged countries to sever relations with us. In the case of "The Satanic Verses," too, it has tried to inflict blows on the Islamic revolution.

He added: Britain could have portrayed the Salman Rushdie affair as a non-government issue, but it got other countries to jump on its bandwagon against the Islamic republic. It tried to question all the ideals that we consider as the values of the revolution, and this led to the brandishing of arms against Muslims throughout the world. At any rate, as far as our country's diplomacy is concerned, we did not confront that country very seriously.

Supporting the decision by the Majlis on severing diplomatic relations with Britain, Mr Asgharzadeh said: The Majlis decision on confronting Britain was not made only because of "The Satanic Verses," but more so because of its antagonism toward the Islamic revolution.

Mr Larijani then spoke about the outlook for the Islamic Republic's future relations with the Soviet Union. He said: Our major problem in recent years as far as the expansion of our relations with the Soviet Union was concerned, was the war and the Soviet Union's support for Iraq on the one hand, and the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan on the other. These two problems have now been solved. With the imam's message to Gorbachev and the answer by the chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium to the leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, a turning point in the expansion of the two countries' relations was reached.

He added: The halt in the export of gas to the Soviet Union was one of the treacheries committed against our country during the period of the interim government. This had unfavorable repercussions on international relations and relations between Iran and the Soviet Union. Our long-term interests lie in expanded relations with the Soviet Union. He expressed hope that the export of gas to the Soviet Union will resume within the next 3 months.

In relation to the Islamic Republic's recent talks with Britain on the establishment of relations between the two countries, Mr Larijani said: During these talks it was we who were constantly gaining points and they who were constantly making concessions.

On the establishment of relations with Saudi Arabia and the establishment of peace between Hizballah and the Amal Movement in Lebanon, he declared: As far as the establishment of relations with Saudi Arabia and some other countries is concerned, we have drawn up our strategy on the basis of the imam's directives, and this will be announced in the future. As for Lebanon, the Foreign Ministry has carried out a truly noteworthy activity in that it has turned a war that was fully in the interests of the Zionists into peace.

### 'Snail-Paced Progress' in Peace Talks Examined

*NC0903165589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Mar 89 p 2*

[Unattributed editorial: "Peace Talks Will Push Through Only if..."]

[Text] A delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Lavasani left for New York last Wednesday to make arrangements for the resumption for Iran-Iraq peace negotiations. The mission will hold discussions with the United Nations authorities to prepare the grounds for a meeting with an Iraqi delegation. The Iranian mission will be mainly working out the rudiments for a meeting between Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign minister with his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz. The meet is scheduled for late March in New York.

What has been achieved in terms of Resolution 598's implementation since its acceptance by Iran last July, is but a meagre half of its first article, i.e. the ceasefire. With the lapse of six months from its acceptance such a snail-paced progress can only be interpreted as utter failure on ways to get the resolution off ground.

It is, however, expected that in this round, Iran will push for a return to internationally recognized borders and Iraq for dredging the Arvand River.

Almost all the countries when asked, for one reason or another, to comment about Resolution 598 have invariably expressed their firm belief in the comprehensive and quick implementation of the resolution. Yet none of these countries have ever gone beyond this and have chosen to remain silent on impediments blocking the way to implementation of the resolution. What is even

more regrettable is that the U.N. chief these days appears to regard his mission as complete; or else we would see some initiatives on his part to get the negotiations moving.

Or a fact the U.N. chief's relentless attempts of the last few years to end Iraq-Iran war would be recorded in history as an invaluable humanitarian service only when what is achieved can be dubbed as the establishment of a just peace in the region and not a fragile and shaky ceasefire.

During the last 6 months Iraq has left no stone unturned to seize any opportunity to create obstacles in the way of the resolution's implementation. It is, therefore, predictable that Iraq would not fail to cash in on the recent problems effected by the publication of the book "The Satanic Verses." Along this line, Iraq is expected to capitalize on the crisis that erupted between Iran and the European Economic Community (EEC) in this regard.

Furthermore Britain and France are both on the five-nation Security Council and also members of the EEC. Unfortunately, past experiences have shown that the permanent members of the Security Council, rather than being impartial judges, have always been primarily concerned with their own political ends and national considerations.

As such the next round of negotiations may also fail to achieve much unless the Security Council and the person of the U.N. secretary general truly feel the concomitant impending dangers of the previously failed round of negotiations.

### Threat of Civil War in Afghanistan Increasing

*NC0403105489 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1520 GMT 3 Mar 89*

[Unattributed commentary from the "Weekly Report" feature entitled "Afghanistan's Future: Like Lebanon or Cyprus?"]

[Excerpts] After long deliberations, the Consultative Council of the Muslim mujahidin of Afghanistan finally announced the future of the interim government that it has in mind. After the downfall of the Kabul regime, this government is to pave the way toward a final solution of the issue of sovereignty in Afghanistan. Agreement on this was reached without the participation of the Tehran-based eight-party alliance of the Afghanistan mujahidin. Many observers believe that this will reduce the credibility of the interim government. Nevertheless, Mr Mojaddadi, who was elected president or the executive power of the interim government, has announced that four of the ministries have been set aside for the Tehran-based eight-party alliance, and that he expects talks for a final solution to begin soon. [passage omitted]

Irrespective of a positive or negative reply by international forums and various governments to the interim government's request for international recognition, the question arises: How will the Afghanistan problem finally be solved?

The truth is that the Kabul regime continues to maintain its domination over many cities, and if the mujahidin inside Afghanistan are unable to establish their interim government, it is hard to believe that foreign governments will attempt to officially recognize such a government.

It appears that with the establishment of the interim government new problems have been placed before Muslim Afghan mujahidin. The issue is how, when, and by what means—political or military—will the mujahidin gain domination over Kabul. Answering these questions without taking into consideration regional and international realities linked with the Afghanistan problem will not be easy. [passage omitted]

If we take into account the existing conflicting expectations and interests of foreign and regional powers regarding Afghanistan's future, and we consider the news on the dispatch of 500 Indian military experts to Kabul, we will realize that the Afghanistan problem is more complicated than one thinks. There are various expectations and interests that should be taken into consideration in the final solution of the Afghanistan problem.

It is clear that under such chaotic conditions a political solution will become more and more difficult each day, and the threat of an intensification of the civil war will increase. Many believe that if a political solution acceptable to all sides is not achieved, Afghanistan could become like Lebanon on a larger and more threatening scale. More optimistic observers in the region regard Afghanistan's future as like that of Cyprus—divided into two separate sections with two separate powers. However, no one can say with complete confidence whether Afghanistan will become a Cyprus or a Lebanon in the future.

The hope that a logical political solution may finally lead to the victory of the realists still exists.

### Tehran TV on Khamene'i Trips to SFRY, Romania

*NC0303183789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1520 GMT 3 Mar 89*

[Commentary entitled "A Report on a Trip" from the "Weekly Report" feature]

[Text] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, who had gone to Yugoslavia and Romania as head of a high-ranking political-economic delegation, returned to Tehran early last week. At the end of this trip, he called his visits to Romania and Yugoslavia successful and useful.

Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's visit to Yugoslavia, which was his first, has been regarded as significant in various ways. The warm and sincere welcome the Muslims in Sarajevo extended to him, which brought tears of happiness to observers' eyes, was one of the important aspects of this visit.

With its large number of Muslims, Yugoslavia is among those Eastern Europe countries with special significance stemming from its history and struggles and active role in the Nonaligned Movement.

In his meetings with Yugoslavia's high-ranking officials, Mr Khamene'i studied mechanisms for expanding economic, political, and cultural relations between the two countries. As he pointed out at the end of his visit to Yugoslavia, there are great possibilities for exapnding the two countries' relations in all fields. At any rate, the new memorandums of understanding and agreement signed with Yugoslavia can be a new chapter in further expanding relations between the two countries. It appears that in coming years when Iran will witness economic changes toward growth and expansion, its having relations with countries that are relatively independent from colonialist powers can be regarded with more trust.

After Yugoslavia, Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i visited Romania. He was welcomed by Romanian leader Mr Nicolae Ceausescu. The president exchanged views on world and regional issues and emphasized all aspects of expanding relations with Romania. Pointing to existing agreements between the two countries in most fields, he spoke about the history of Iranian-Romanian relations.

Iran and Romania have a history of favorable political-economic ties, and Mr Khamene'i's visit to Romania is expected to lead to deepening and further expansion of these relations under current circumstances. At any rate, it appears relations with nonaligned and independent countries can be considered a principle in our foreign policy and can maintain their favorable significance.

## Burkina Faso Minister Pays Visit to Iran

### Meets With Khamene'i

*LD0503063189 Tehran IRNA in English 0623 GMT 5 Mar 89*

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i told a senior official of Burkina Faso Saturday [4 March] that cooperation with progressive African states was among the Islamic Republic's "revolutionary tasks."

Speaking in a meeting with the visiting Minister for External Relations Jean Marc Palm, the president further stated that the Islamic world had reacted "suitably and firmly" against "the recent arrogant conspiracy" which he said "aimed at blotting Islam under the guise of a cultural move."

He was referring to "The Satanic Verses," a sacrilegious novel written by the Indian born British writer Salman Rushdie who has received death sentence by Imam Khomeyni for blaspheming Islam and insulting the sanctities of Muslims. Execution is the punishment Islam sanctions for those insulting its sanctities.

The president said almost all member states of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) had taken "a good stance" towards the issue. He urged other Islamic countries also to take "firm stands" aganst Rushdie's novel.

During the meeting also attended by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Palm submitted to Khamene'i a written message from Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore. The contents of the message were not disclosed.

President Khamene'i thanked Palm for the message and stressed expansion of Tehran-Ouagadougou ties.

In another development, Palm discussed issues of mutual interest with Minister of Construction Jihad Gholam Reza Foruzesh, Friday.

The visiting minister asked Iran to transfer her experiences in rural and agricultural development to his country.

It was decided that a group of technical experts from Burkina Faso visit Iran to review ways for the implementation of agreements and cooperation with construction jihad.

Palm arrived here on March 1 heading a delegation on a four-day visit.

### Comments on Visit

*NC0603073089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 6 Mar 89*

[Text] In an interview with our correspondent before his departure from Tehran, the external affairs minister of Burkina Faso termed his visit as positive. He said: This visit provided me with the opportunity to acquaint myself with the country, nation, and the Iranian revolution. During this visit, I observed an Iran that is very different from what the Western mass media strives to portray. He added: I found a proud and determined nation committed to achieving all of the objectives it has set for itself. He added: During my talks in Tehran, I observed conditions that are very conducive for furthering cooperation and promoting progress in mutual ties. To consolidate this friendship and solidarity, I am looking forward to playing host to Mr Velayati in Burkina Faso.

Our foreign minister, Mr Velayati, spoke to our correspondent Ja'fari on the visit of the Burkinabe external affairs minister:

[Begin recording] [Ja'fari] Mr Velayati: Now that the visit of the external affairs minister of Burkina Faso has concluded, could you please tell us what topics were discussed and what issues were mentioned in the joint statement signed by the two countries?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. This is the Burkinabe external affairs minister's first visit to Tehran since the present regime in that country came to power. During this visit, political ties and bilateral cooperation in the various economic and cultural fields were discussed. He also met his excellencies the president and the prime minister. We also held two rounds of talks with some of our esteemed brothers, the ministers of the relevant departments, on cooperation.

It was decided that these talks and their outcome be followed up in the near future. This country is and has been one of the combatant countries of West Africa, whether under the previous or present regime. Additionally, Burkina Faso and the Islamic Republic of Iran cooperate constantly at the international level. A joint statement was concluded and will be issued simultaneously in the capitals of the two countries. In this statement, the Iran-Iraq peace talks, the Palestinian issue, and Afghanistan were mentioned along with international and regional issues on which the stances of the two countries are very similar to one another.

[Ja'fari] Thank you very much. [end recording]

### Communique Issued on Visit

*LD0603121989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Mar 89*

[Text] At the end of the visit by the Burkina Faso Foreign Minister to Iran, a joint communique was released today in the two countries, on the basis of which the two sides have agreed to consolidate bilateral cooperation in all fields. They agreed that in the near future, following the inauguration of the Burkina Faso Embassy in Tehran, an ambassador from that country will be sent to Iran.

Iran and Burkina Faso reiterate the necessity for complete implementation of Security Council Resolution 598, and announce that the indispensable condition for making progress in the peace talks is the complete withdrawal of all forces to the recognized international boundaries.

The two sides also give full and unbreakable support to the Palestinian nation's struggle against the Zionists in the occupied territories, and condemn the Zionist regime's atrocities.

Elsewhere in the communique, the two sides express satisfaction at the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, and state support for placing the management of that country in the hands of the Afghan nation. They also categorically condemn the atrocities committed by the diabolical system of apartheid against the black people in South Africa, as well as the deceitful deeds committed by Pretoria officials against the front-line countries. They once again support all antiapartheid movements in South Africa, and that of the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO.

Iran and Burkina Faso also express satisfaction at the outcome of the four-party peace talks in South Africa.

### Khamene'i Speaks on IRGC Anniversary

*LD0903122189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] On the eve of the auspicious occasion of the anniversary of the birth of his holiness Imam Hosayn [the third shi'ite imam], may God's blessings be upon him, the occasion also being the Day of the Revolution Guards, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, accompanied by Mr Mohsen Reza'i, the IRGC commander, participated in the IRGC commanders' session at the Vali-e Asr garrison this morning. He went on to visit an exhibition on the achievements of the IRGC's aeronautics industry comprised of missile equipment, computer, aircraft, helicopters, communications, and pilotless aircraft pavillions.

The president later delivered a speech to a gathering of officials from the imam's secretariats in the IRGC regions, in which he referred to the IRGC as the microcosm of endurance, and revolutionary defense of the masses. He said: As long as this forces works with faith and intiative, it will serve as the pivot of hope for the nation and the Islamic revolution and the people. Mr Khamene'i remarked on the role played by the officials at the imam's secretariat in the IRGC, and said: The officials at the secretariat should raise the faith and commitment of the members of the IRGC, and increase their strength in resolving various issues. At the end, the president also visited the exhibition on the achievements of the IRGC's navy.

According to a Central News Unit report, the chief of the Supreme Defense Council, this morning, also attended the graduation ceremonies of the 3d year cadets in the armed commanders and personnel of the IRGC. At this ceremony in which a number of the IRGC commanders, Majlis deputies, and military attaches from foreign countries were also present, the chief of the Supreme Defense Council, presented prizes to the outstanding lecturer and five of the outstanding graduates.

In a speech he said: Experience has proven to us that for the defense of the revolution we need a proper defense force, and hitherto, in our march toward the great revolutionary aspirations, we have been faced with reactionary moves by the global arrogance. Mr Khamene'i added: The training of the forces and personned and specialized commanders is one of the fundamental tasks in bolstering this sacred defense. The IRGC, as an

invincible amd motivated force, should take the most advantage of exchanging views with the military academies of Iran and the friendly countries, and increase its defensive potential in line with the strength and stamina of our revolutionary people.

In conclusion, the chief of the Supreme Defense Council referred to the anti-cultural hue and cry incited by the arrogance against the Islamic revolution, and said: The people of Iran and the Muslims in the world, in this latest move, have manifested their strength in defending the Islamic sanctities, and our Armed Forces should be formed in proportion to the revolutionary strength of such people.

### IRGC Minister Receives Foreign Ambassadors

*NC0903071189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the Algerian ambassador in Tehran met with IRGC minister Mr Shamkhani yesterday afternoon. During this meeting, the Algerian ambassador mentioned the friendship and fraternity between the two nations and said: The Algerian nation and government have been, and will be at Iran's side in times of difficulty. He informed the IRGC minister of his country's stand on condemning the author of "The Satanic Verses" and added: Algeria supports the Islamic republic's just stand on "The Satanic Verses." This book is a direct insult to Islam, the Koran, and the prophet of Islam, and it cannot be forgiven in any way.

The same report states that after thanking the Algerian Government for its stand, the IRGC minister said: The Islamic Republic of Iran sees Algeria at its side at all times, and your stand on "The Satanic Verses" is just and praiseworthy. You should know that "The Satanic Verses" is against Islam and the sanctities of the Muslims, and all the Muslims of the world should react as fit.

IRNA reports that the ambassadors of Bulgaria and Turkey in Tehran also met separately with IRGC minister Mr Shamkhani yesterday afternoon and spoke about bilateral relations, the issues of the imposed war, and UN Security Council Resolution 598.

### Consultative Assembly Discusses Draft Budget

*LD0803224789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 8 Mar 89*

[Text] In this morning's open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, discussion on the main points of the draft budget for 1368 [year starting on 21 March 1989] continued. In this meeting, the deputies from Bandar Lengeh, Mashad, Sarakhs, and Ahar in the Islamic Consultative Assembly spoke against the bill and, in their speeches, criticized the negative effects of the unequal distribution of the budget among various organizations and departments. They also criticized the lack of allocation of a sufficient budget to the agricultural sector, as well as the added pressure [on the people] that will be imposed as a result of the increase in the current expenditure and the increase in inflation. They said that these were the negative points of this budget.

The opponents of the draft budget also described the lack of a clear and detailed plan for reconstruction, and the inability to make use of the potential capabilities of the country as weaknesses of the budget.

The deputies from Birjand, Babol Sar, Bampur, Sirjan, and Hamadan supported the bill, and, in their speeches, while answering the criticisms raised by the deputies who were against the bill, described the fiscal policies detailed in the bill as an attempt to revitalize industries. It contains plans that will lead the country toward self-sufficiency in the production of commodities needed by the country and consequent savings.

Those in favor of the bill, while rejecting the issue of loans as a general policy and while describing the negative effects and consequences, described the predictions made by the government in the draft budget for reducing the deficit and increasing national income as necessary and positive.

### Majlis Approves Budget

*LD0903185389 Tehran IRNA in English 1733 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA—Iran's new year budget was approved in principle in today's open session of the Majlis. The new budget for the Iranian year 1368 (starting March 21) is amounted to rials 8,656 billion (about $123.7 billion). The budget bill was handed over to the Majlis by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi on Jan. 1 this year.

Defending the budget, Plans and Budget Minister Mas'ud Roghani Zanjani told Majlis deputies that the non-oil incomes have been estimated at 75 percent, seven percent more than last year's budget. The government's development credits have risen by three percent to rials 878 billion (dlrs 12.5 b.), while credits for agriculture and health care sectors stood at 33 and 27 percent respectively, he added. The credit for employment of 17,500 people by the Education Ministry was also included in the budget, disclosed the minister.

Outlining the government's development activities since 1983, Roghani Zanjani said the number of rural medical centers have more than doubled from 3,600 to 7,700, while hospital beds have risen from a mere 10,000 to 77,000. A one-billion dollar credit was allocated for power stations, he said.

### 50,000 Required To Pay Tax for Reconstruction

*LD0903205389 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] Greetings. The Ministry of Economy and Finances deputy for tax revenues said in an interview with the Central News Unit's correspondent today: The articles of the national mutual assistance tax bill for the country's reconstruction will be implemented, after going through the necessary legal stages, from early 1368 [year beginning 21 March 1989].

He said after the promulgation of the national mutual assistance tax law, the people subject to that tax will have 3 months to submit the relevant tax declaration form to tax offices. He added that the estimated figure foreseen in the 1368 budget for the revenue from the national mutual assistance tax for the country's reconstruction is 255 billion rials.

At the same time, the Ministry of Economy and Finances deputy estimated that throughout the country, 50,000 people would be liable for paying the national mutual assistance tax for the country's reconstruction.

### Musavi on Cooperatives Role in Reconstruction

*LD0803224389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Mar 89*

[Text] The work of studying the methods of participation of cooperatives in reconstruction projects and in the country's economic development came to an end today. A number of managing directors and management boards of cooperatives participated, and Prime Minister Musavi was present. A seminar was held on the subject.

At this meeting Mr Musavi said: One of the people's demands during the revolution was the implementation of social justice. We believe the establishment of Islamic justice in society will not be possible without the expansion of cooperatives.

The prime minister added: Experience has taught us that the way to remove injustice is not to concentrate economic monopolies in the hands of the government or the private sector. This is why support for cooperatives is of great importance in our system.

Referring to the fact that the cooperatives were formed among a wave of pessimism and opposition, Musavi said: The numerous difficulties and obstacles which existed in the path of the development of cooperatives makes it necessary for cooperatives' activities to be given legal protection. Therefore, we believe that the approval of the law on cooperatives will considerably reduce their vulnerability.

Referring to the importance of the participation of cooperatives in reconstruction projects, the prime minister said: In the present conditions we are seeking ways for cooperatives' participation in reconstruction projects. In this sphere it is necessary for the reconstruction headquarters to present plans which will ensure the active participation of cooperatives in such activities.

Continuing his speech, he referred to the amount of capital at the disposal of government, private and cooperatives sectors, saying: Contrary to expectations, the cooperatives sector is in third place in view of the volume of it capital, and this will leave unfavorable effects on our economic system.

The prime minister added: The country's economic health would require a balanced growth of the government, private and cooperatives' sectors. To achieve this, it is necessary for the three sectors to cooperate and harmonize their activities.

In conclusion, he described the economic activities of the cooperatives as positive and stressed the need for the banking system to support cooperatives.

## Pakistan

### Further Reportage on 'Arafat's Visit

#### 'Arafat Meets Bhutto

*BK0903051289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO], Yasir 'Arafat, has said that the best way to establish peace and security in the Middle East is to convene a UN-sponsored international peace conference, with the participation of the PLO on an equal basis. He was speaking at a banquet hosted in his honor by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Rawalpindi last night. He said Israel can never destroy the spirit of the Palestinian people. Yasir 'Arafat thanked Pakistan for continuously supporting the cause of the Palestinians. He paid glowing tributes to the former prime minister martyr, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, for fully supporting the Palestinians on the occasion of the Islamic Summit conference held in Lahore in 1974. He recalled the significant role played by the late leader to acquire the support of the Islamic Conference Organization for the struggle of the Palestinian people.

The PLO leader lauded the efforts of Pakistan for finding a just solution, through talks, on the Afghan issue. He also appreciated the restoration of democracy in Pakistan.

In her speech, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto assured the PLO chief that the people and the Government of Pakistan will support their Palestinian brethren until victory. Benazir Bhutto stressed that a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue can only be found through an international conference on the Middle East that gives equal participation to the PLO with all parties concerned. For a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, it is essential that Israel vacate all the occupied Arab territories and that the civil rights of the

Palestinian people be restored. The prime minister welcomed the recent efforts of the United States and the Soviet Union toward the Middle East crisis. Paying glowing tributes to Yasir 'Arafat, she said he is the leader of a distinguished freedom loving, valiant, and courageous nation of the present time.

Referring to Afghanistan, Benazir Bhutto said a comprehensive settlement to the Afghanistan issue can only be achieved when power is transferred to a broad-based government and the Afghan people are given the opportunity to decide about their future themselves.

The prime minister said Pakistan is determined to maintain friendly relations with all its neighboring countries.

### Meets Mujahidin Leaders

*BK0903141089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 9 Mar 89*

[Text] The president of the interim government of Afghanistan, Professor Sebhghatullah Mojaddedi, held talks with PLO Chairman Mr Yasir 'Arafat in Rawalpindi today. Many other Afghan mujahidin leaders were present on the occasion. The latest Afghan situation, Middle East developments, ministerial meetings of the Islamic Conference Organization [being held in Saudi Arabia from 10 March], and matters of mutual interest were discussed on the occasion.

### Unified Approach to Afghan Problem Urged

*BK0703053989 Karachi DAWN in English 26 Feb 89 p 7*

[Editorial: "Afghan Interim Government"]

[Text] The Shura meeting in Rawalpindi has at long last managed to elect an interim government for Afghanistan. This positive development will be widely welcomed. Given the divisiveness and factionalism that had come to characterise the Shura deliberations in the past fifteen days, many had despaired of the possibility of the Mujahidin being able to iron out their differences and reach agreement on a government of their choice. Not that the leadership has been chosen by consensus. In fact, a complicated formula for electing the President, the prime minister and five Ministers had to be devised to break the deadlock and enable the Shura to reach a decision. But what is important is that a government has been announced which presumably enjoys the support of the 425 members of the Shura who participated in Thursday's elections. This should shift the focus from the differences in the Mujahidin ranks to the need for a collective strategy and a unified approach to the Afghan problem. The first step should be to broaden the base of the provisional government. The two non-PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] elements conspicuously missing from the Shura proceedings were the Iran-based Mujahidin and the field commanders. While the eight-party Afghan Alliance based in Iran turned up for the Shura at Rawalpindi only to boycott it on account of disagreement on the quantum of their representation, the field commanders, it seems, stayed away from the session in substantial numbers. Prof Mojaddedi who has been elected President is said to enjoy the confidence of the Afghan guerillas in Iran. He should, therefore, strive to enlist their cooperation in the political process which the interim government is expected to launch. It is equally essential that the field commanders are also associated in some form with the new focus of political power to have emerged from the Shura session.

In reason, the interim government should now address the question of political settlement in Afghanistan. Since the moderate elements have emerged as an important political force, they should seek to launch early efforts for a political solution. The importance of this is two-fold. First, the interim government still has to establish its legitimacy and win international recognition. This might prove difficult to obtain until it has established its effective control over Afghan territory, set up a functioning civil administration and enlist popular support. Although Prof Mojaddedi is confident that his government will be operating from Afghan territory in a month and elections for a new Shura will be held within six months, the prospect may remain uncertain in view of the fighting in Afghanistan. The other factor to be borne in mind is that without a political settlement the war in that trouble-torn country could drag on endlessly, covering its trail with bloodshed and destruction. To avert such a terrible prospect, the interim government might even consider opening a dialogue with the more moderate among the pro-PDPA elements—the "Muslims" from Kabul, so to say—in an effort to bring a quick end to the fighting. It can afford to take such an initiative from the position of strength it undoubtedly now occupies. The longer the war continues, the greater will be the strain on the new-found unity in the ranks of the Mujahidin.

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